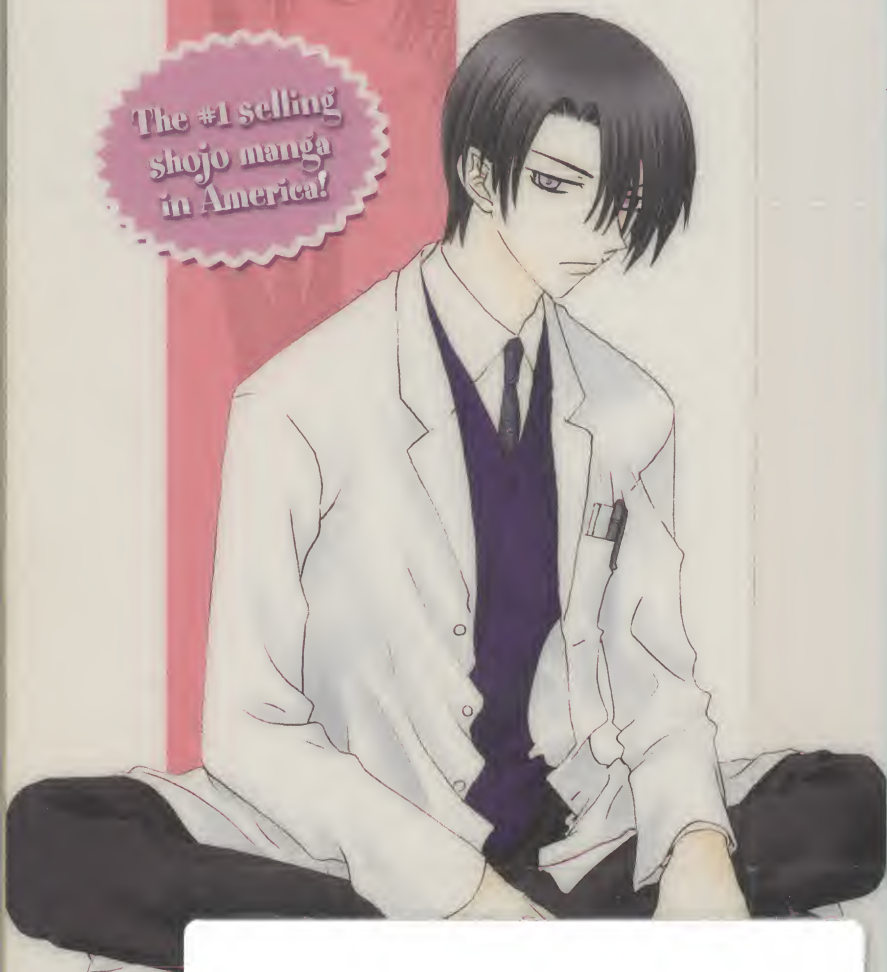


Fruits Basket™

The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!



7

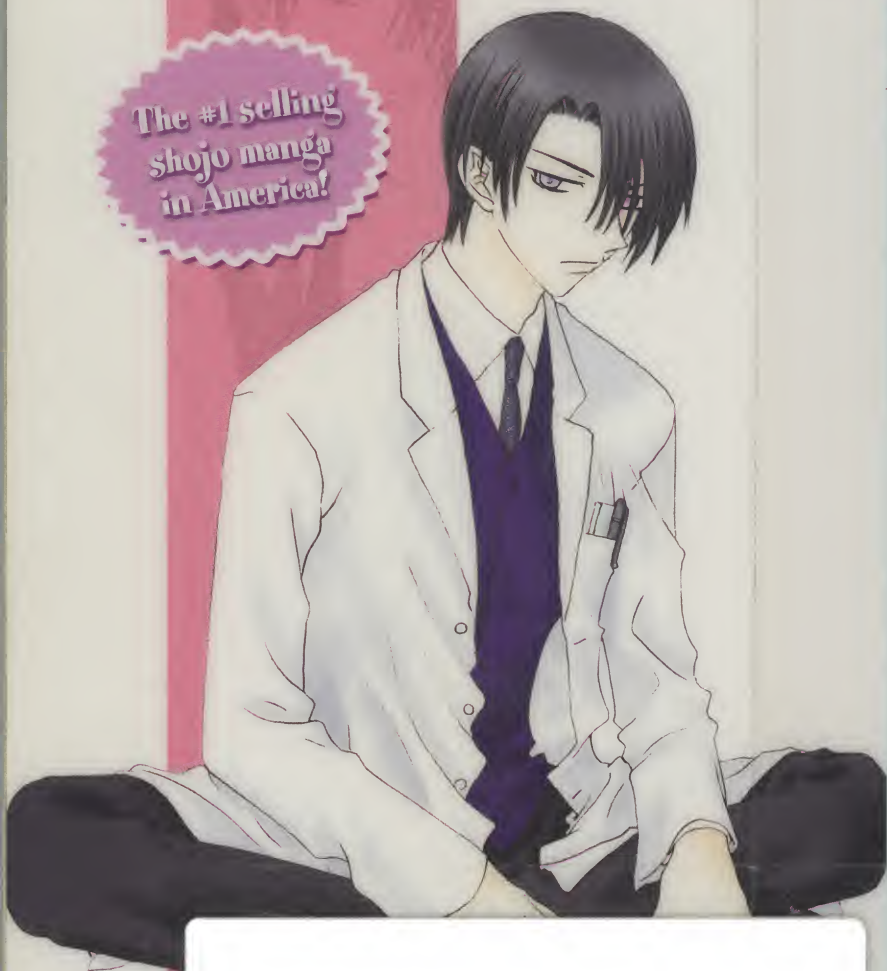
Natsuki Takaya

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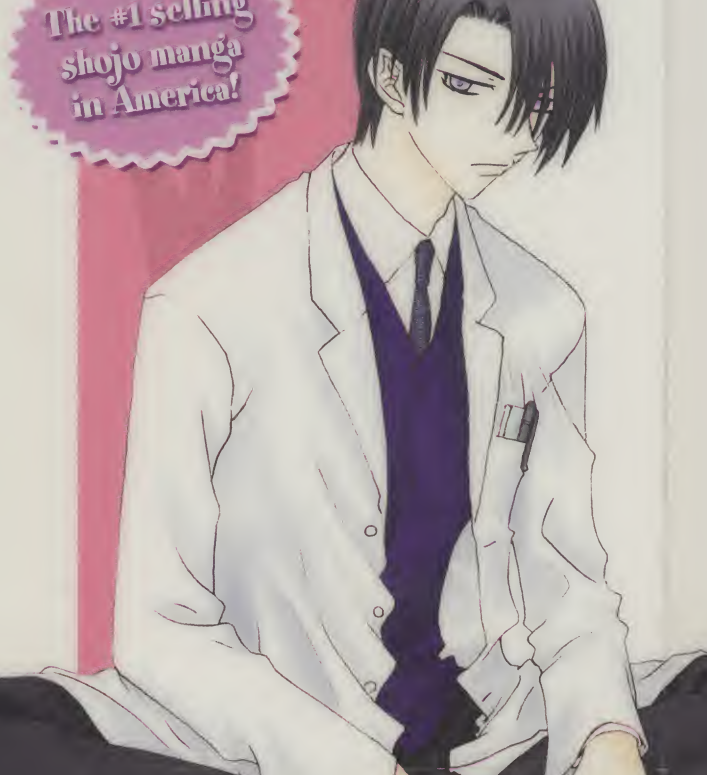


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Natsuki Takaya

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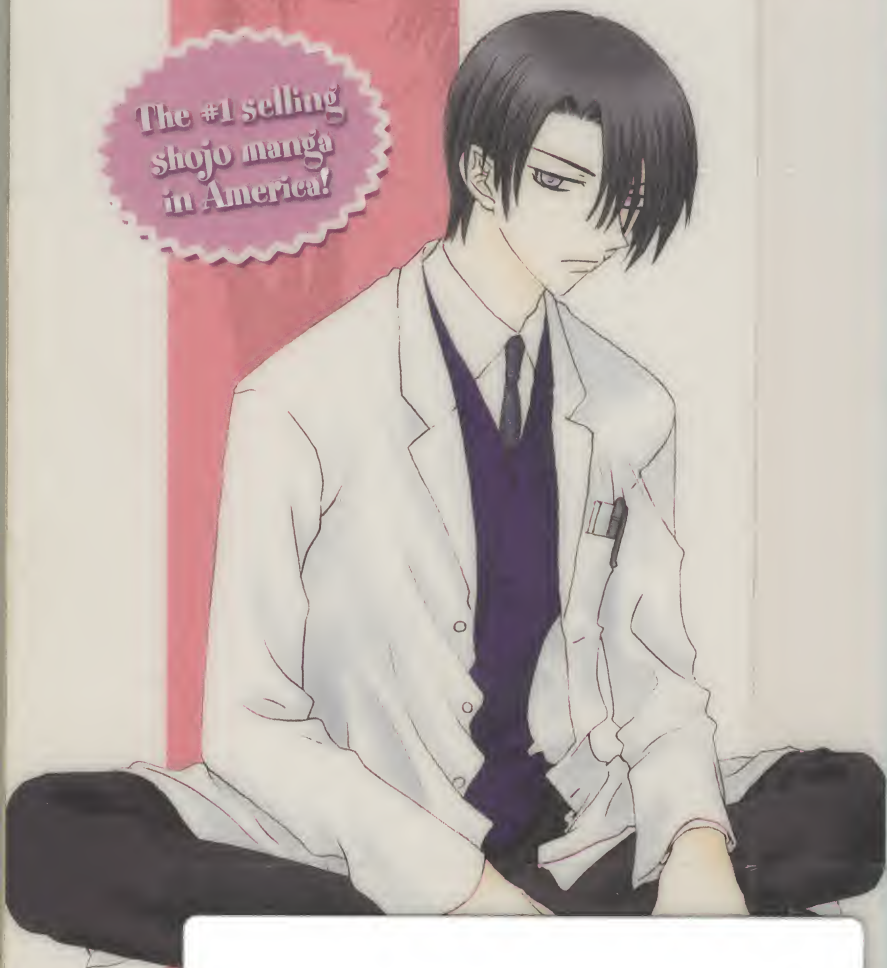
The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!

A manga-style illustration of a young man with short, dark hair and a serious expression. He is wearing a white lab coat over a dark vest and a dark tie. He is sitting down, with his hands resting on his lap. A speech bubble above him contains the text 'The #1 selling shojo manga in America!'. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.

Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket™

The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!



7

Natsuki Takaya

Tohru and company have been having a lot more fun ever since Kisa came to visit. Now it's time for Tohru to meet another member of the Zodiac—the skillfully sarcastic grade-school student, Hiro! One way or another, this tyke will have to deal with his resentment of Tohru and his affection for Kisa. Where will he find the answers? In the fabulous 7th volume of the super-popular Fruits Basket, of course!



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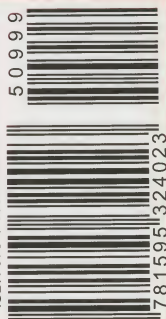


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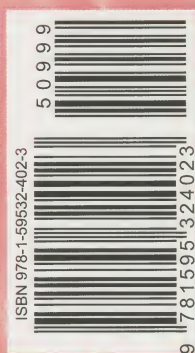
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STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!

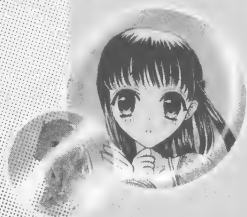


Fruits Basket™

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Fruits Basket Characters



Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.

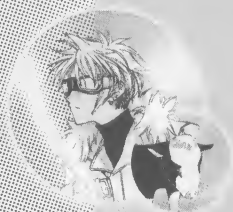
Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.



Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out.



Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.



Saki Hanajima Arisa Uotani

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

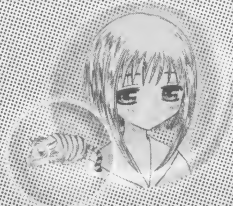
"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Tohru's Best Friends

Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.

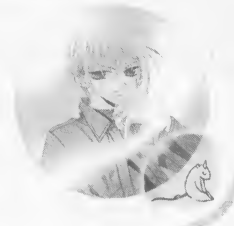


Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

Mabudachi Trio

Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.



Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.

Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.





Chapter 37

Fruits Basket



*oba-san: "aunt." Also used towards young women who are like family.

ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, 1

I had hay fever before a few years back, but this time my nose won't stop running. It's a real problem. Where on earth does all that snot come from? Sigh...



ULTRA-SPECIAL BONUS BLAH, BLAH, BLAH

Please don't think too much about Mogeta. Seriously. Just go with it. Takaya just drew it because she felt like it.



Today is the day, once again. Yes it's true! Ari's taking a walk with Mogeta!

(Aritamis Donpanina Talos is long, so it's always abbreviated)

Today is the day, and you know he can't lose! That mysterious creature, Mogeta!*

Sometimes--well, rarely--when they remember--they fight scaaaary enemies.

Today's enemy



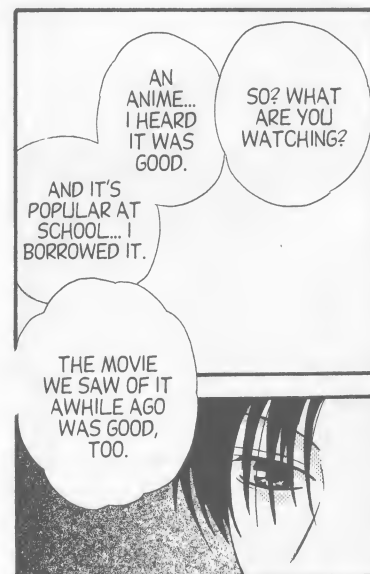
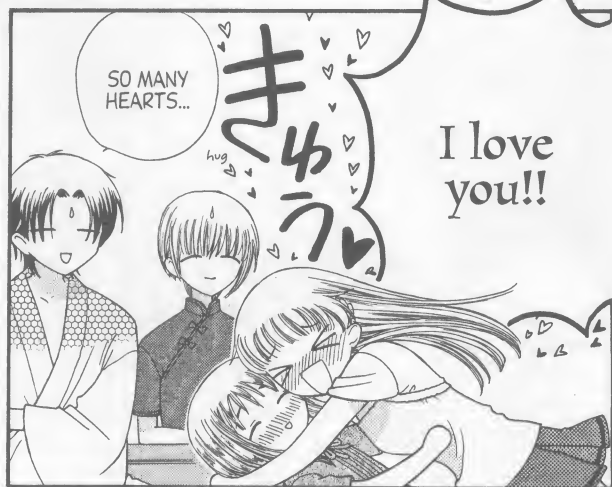
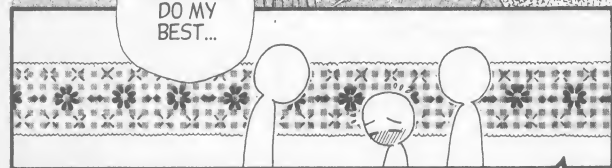
*This is the Mogeta anime theme song...more or less...

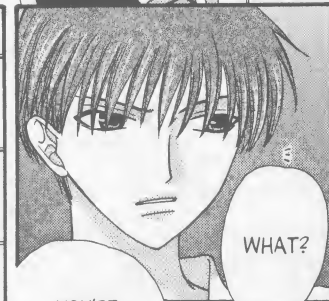


Fruits Basket 7:
Part 1

Hajimemashite and Konnichiwa. Natsuki Takaya reporting for duty. You've waited a long time, and here it is--volume 7! It's Hatori, this time. Goodness, it took a long time for me to recover fully; I apologize. I think there *may* have been people waiting for a Hatori cover... Were there? (I feel bad having to ask.) Anyway, Furuba has returned, so please enjoy it.

Editor's note: While Takaya-sensei was working on *Furuba* vol. 6, she sustained a serious injury to her drawing hand that caused the series to go on hiatus in Japan. (She mentions her hand in a vol. 6 sidebar). Fortunately, it was a speedy recovery and after a delay on Vol. 7, Takaya-sensei was able to return to the work she loves.

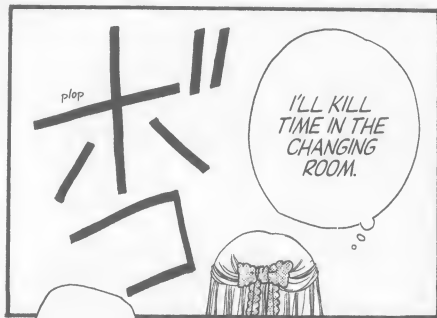




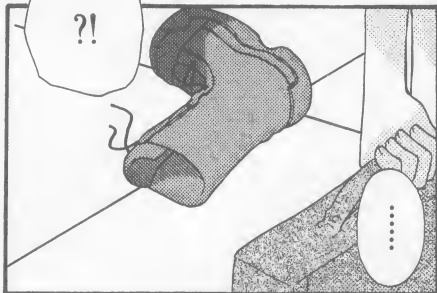


* In Japanese, many words and concepts are formed by combining other words. Shigure is commenting on the fact that the written form of "adolescence" is formed by combining the written words for "green" and "spring."





I'LL KILL TIME IN THE CHANGING ROOM.



OH...

I GOT HERE A LITTLE EARLY.



THAT SHOE--

PICK IT UP.

A SHOE FELL FROM THE SKY?

HEY!

?!



WELL THEN, I'LL GO ON AHEAD.

SEE YOU TOMORROW.

OH...

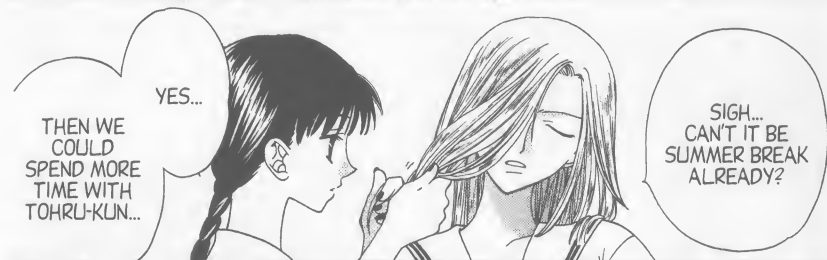


THANKS!

YUKI-KUN, DO YOU HAVE CLASS OFFICER DUTIES TODAY?

YEAH.

GOOD LUCK AT WORK, HONDA-SAN.



YES...

THEN WE COULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH TOHRU-KUN...

SIGH... CAN'T IT BE SUMMER BREAK ALREADY?



Like he's one to talk!

CAN'T YOU ASK MORE POLITELY?!

I'LL GO, I'LL GO! I LOVE BOWLING.

I have stuff to do today!

All right! Come on!

FOR NOW I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SETTLE FOR YOU GUYS.

MOVE YOUR ASSES, BOYS. YOU COMING BOWLING, OR WHAT?



YOU'RE SO GULLIBLE.

WHAT? YOU'RE SERIOUSLY PICKING IT UP?



LOOK! SINCE YOU'VE PICKED IT UP ALREADY, GIVE IT BACK.

OR DON'T TELL ME YOU PLAN TO STEAL IT?!

EH?!

N-NO, I DON'T...



WHAT IS HE...?

HEY!



EH...?

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY STANDARDS?

SO IF I TOLD YOU TO SPIN AROUND, YOU'D DO IT? IF I TOLD YOU TO JUMP OFF A CLIFF, WOULD YOU DO THAT, TOO?

NO...

I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO INDIVIDUALITY!!



LIWAHH...

PICK IT UP.

HE'S SO CUTE...

O-KAY!



smile



HERE!



DON'T GIVE ME THAT. IT'S THE LEAST YOU CAN DO AFTER I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO COME HERE. NOW, PAY ME BACK.

UH, UM, BUT I HAVE TO GET TO WORK!

AND I DON'T HAVE MUCH MONEY WITH ME...

EH?!

EH...?

AAHHH, THIS IS STUPID. I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME.

BUT SINCE I'M HERE, GET ME SOMETHING TO EAT, WILL YOU?



I CAN'T STAND SELFISH PEOPLE!!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU MEAN YOU WANT ME TO TREAT YOU? YOU'D MOOCH OFF A KID?

YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT IF SOMEONE HAS SOMETHING YOU WANT, YOU'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET IT-EVEN BLACKMAIL?



EH?!

AH... WAI--

LET ME SEE YOUR WALLET.

YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY?

UH... UM...



C'MON, THINK ABOUT IT. BASED ON YOUR PAST EXPERIENCES ...

...WHAT KIND OF PERSON WOULD GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO SEE YOU?



I CAME ALL THIS WAY TO SEE YOU AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SAY A WORD OF THANKS?

EH?!

UH... UM...



y- YES...

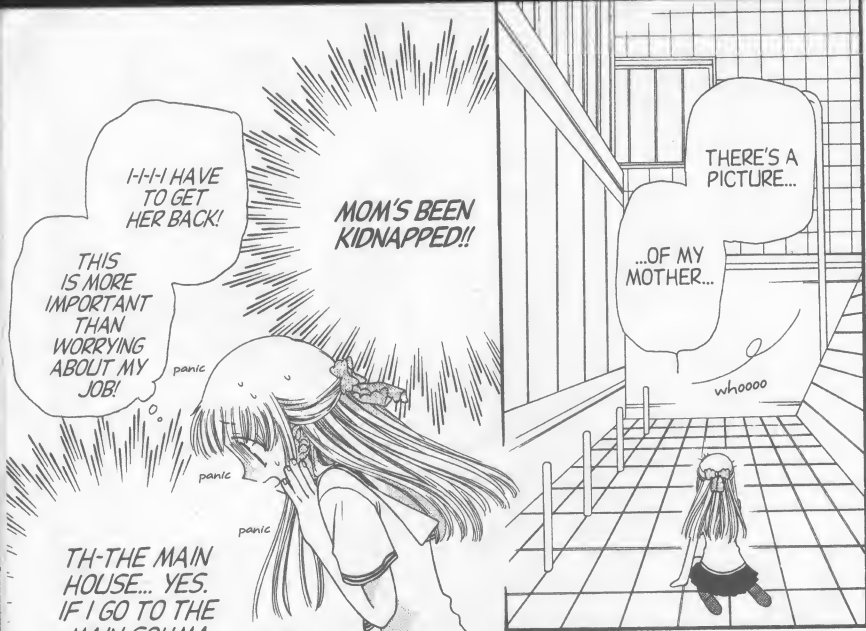
YOU SURE ARE SLOW, STUPID WOMAN!!

A SOHMA ...?

A MEMBER OF THE ZODIAC!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE SEES IN YOU.

YOU SEEM PRETTY AVERAGE TO ME...AT BEST.



I-I-I HAVE
TO GET
HER BACK!

MOM'S BEEN
KIDNAPPED!!

THIS
IS MORE
IMPORTANT
THAN
WORRYING
ABOUT MY
JOB!

panic

panic

panic

TH-THE MAIN
HOUSE... YES.
IF I GO TO THE
MAIN SOHMA
HOUSE...

...HIRO-SAN
SHOULD BE
THERE.

I'M
COMING,
MOM!

THERE'S A PICTURE...

...OF MY
MOTHER...

who000



!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
THERE?

TOH-
RU-
?!

...BUT
THERE
WAS NO
TIME
TO BE
EXCITED.

I FINALLY
GOT TO MEET
ANOTHER
MEMBER OF
THE CHINESE
ZODIAC...

HIRO-
SAN...



Ah, here
we go...

AH-!

WHAT A
CHEAP BAG.
DIRTY, TOO.

UH,
UM-!

rummage
rummage

THIS NOTE-
BOOK ISN'T SO
BAD. I LIKE
DEEP GREEN.

GIVE IT
TO ME.

EH?!

HYAH!

ずん



BYE. THANKS
FOR AN
INCREDIBLY
BORING TIME.

I CAN'T.
THAT--

I'M HIRO
SOHMA.

FRANKLY,
I DOUBT I'LL
EVER SEE YOU
AGAIN, BUT I
GUESS YOU
SHOULD KNOW
MY NAME.

PLEASE WAIT!
THAT NOTE-
BOOK HAS A
PICTURE OF
MY MOTHER!

WAI-



IT DOESN'T
MATTER;
NOBODY'S
HERE YET.

HIRO!

DAMMIT, HOW
MANY TIMES
DO I HAVE TO
TELL YOU?!

DON'T COME
INTO THE DOJO
WITH YOUR
SHOES ON!!

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
WHETHER
THERE'S
ANYONE
HERE OR
NOT!

IT'S A
JUST BAD
MANNERS.

The dojo is "outside."



I'M IMPRESSED.

Ha!

SO YOU'RE
TELLING ME
YOU'D DO
WHATEVER
PEOPLE TOLD
YOU TO IF IT
WAS GOOD
MANNERS?

YOU MEAN YOU'D
DIE IF SOMEONE
TOLD YOU IT WAS
THE POLITE THING
TO DO? WOULD YOU
KILL SOMEONE TO
SHOW YOUR GOOD
MANNERS?



WHAT? YOU'RE
GETTING SO
WORKED UP
OVER A KID?
JEEZ...

YOU ACT SO
MATURE, BUT
YOU'RE NOT
OUT OF GRADE
SCHOOL YET,
DAMN PLUNK!

YOU
SMART-
MOUTHED
BRAT!!



MOMIJI-
KUN...

YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU'VE
LOST YOUR
WAY.

Meanwhile, Hiro-kun was...



STUPID
WOMAN'S GOT
A MOTHER
COMPLEX OR
SOMETHING...

LAME.

A PICTURE
OF HER
MOTHER,
HUH?

That doesn't look
like a mom.



UH, UM,
IT'S ALL
RIGHT
NOW...

NO, IT'S
NOT ALL
RIGHT!!

H-HIRO-
CHAN...!

I DON'T NEED
THIS ANYWAY.

HIROOOO!!

Bad!

Das ist keine
Axt!

...I DON'T
LIKE IT.

WHAT'S
WRONG?
WHY
WOULD
YOU...?

WHEN YOU...
DO SAD
THINGS LIKE
THAT...

AH!

KISA-SAN!
HELLO!

...but why are
you here?

I SEE...

SO THIS IS
ALL THE
RABBIT'S
DOING.

Nyaah

HIRO-
CHAN...

...DID YOU
TAKE
SOME-
THING...

...FROM
ONEE-
CHAN*...?

*onee-chan: Literally "big sister."
Also used towards sister-figures.

HIRO...
CHAN?

...FOR
ONEE-
CHAN.

HIRO-
CHAN...
YOU HAVE
TO GIVE IT
BACK.

YOU
SHOULDN'T...
CAUSE
TROUBLE...

SO
STUPID...



HIRO'S
TALKING
CRAZY!

SHUT UP,
RABBIT!

WHAT? DO
I HAVE TO
SPELL IT
OUT FOR
YOU?!

FIGURE
IT OUT!!



BUT I...

I WAS
REALLY...

YOU WERE
HAVING SUCH
A HARD TIME,
KISA, BUT I
COULDN'T DO
ANYTHING.

BUT NOW...
NOW YOU'RE
ALWAYS
SAYING,
"ONEE-CHAN,
ONEE-CHAN!"

BUT I...

...WORRIED
ABOUT YOU,
TOO, KISA!



YOU EVEN
TOOK MY
VIDEO
STRAIGHT
TO HER!

WHY?! I'M
THE ONE
WHO LENT
IT TO YOU!

I...

...WANTED
TO WATCH
IT WITH
YOU!!

WHY DO YOU
ALWAYS...

...ALWAYS
...

"ONEE-CHAN,
ONEE-CHAN!"

...KEEP TALKING
ABOUT THAT
STUPID WOMAN!



YEAH, I'VE GOT
THE MOGETA
ANIME. YOU
ACTUALLY
LIKE THAT
STUFF, KISA?

IT'S NOT
LIKE I'M
GONNA
WATCH
IT.

GO AHEAD.
TAKE IT.

...YOU
DIDN'T
SAY ANY-
THING...
ABOUT
THAT.

BUT, HIRO-
CHAN. WHEN...
YOU LENT ME
THE VIDEO...

I WANT TO
BE THE ONLY
ONE...

HOW
SHAMEFUL.

...WHO CAN
HELP THE
ONE I CARE
ABOUT.

I'm happy,
but I don't
want to
interfere...

I SEE...
SO I WAS
HIS RIVAL
IN LOVE!

HUH
...?

TOHRU'S
IN AN
AWKWARD
POSITION!

BUT
HIRO-
CHAN...

WILL YOU
MAKE
SURE TO...

...
APOLOGIZE
TO ONEE-
CHAN?

KYO'S HEAD
IS TOO THICK.

WHA?

WHAT THE
HELL'S HE
SAYING?

HIRO'S
JEALOUS OF
TOHRU.

HE MAY BE
TALL, BUT
HIRO'S STILL
IN SIXTH
GRADE.

IT'S
AWKWARD
FOR HIM
TO TALK
ABOUT IT.

I'M SORRY,
HIRO-CHAN...

NEXT TIME,
I'LL BE
SURE TO...
WATCH
WITH YOU...



?!!

YOU
HAVE TO
LET ME...

...HUG
YOU!!

poof



NOW,
LET'S
START
OVER.

PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU...



MORON...

HOW
IS THAT A
PUNISHMENT?

Kya
ha
ha!



SHE WAS
CURIOUS ABOUT
WHAT YEAR
HIRO IS.



YEAH,
HIRO.

TOHRU'S
GOING TO
BE LATE
FOR WORK
TODAY.

THE
MEMBER
OF THE
ZODIAC
I JUST
MET...

...IS
VERY
CLEVER.

BUT,
AFTER
ALL,
HE'S
STILL...

...VERY
YOUNG.



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
YOU CAN
DO TO ME?

NO!

I WON'T
FORGIVE HIM--
EVEN IF HE
APOLOGIZES!

HIRO-SAN HAS
TO ACCEPT A
PUNISHMENT!!

?

Chapter 38



...HIRO-SAN!

Ba-dum
ba-dum

AND WHILE
IT'S HARD
FOR HIM TO
EXPRESS HIS
FEELINGS
NOW, I KNOW
THAT...

The Ram

...HIRO-SAN IS
A BOY WITH
A ROMANTIC
HEART.



I MAY BE IN
CHARGE NOW,
BUT EVEN
I WILL BE
RULED BY MY
WIFE WHEN I
GO HOME!!!

SO WHAT'RE
YOU SAYING? YOU
MEAN IF YOUR
WIFE WASN'T
CONTROLLING
YOU, YOU
WOULDN'T BE
A VILLAIN?

YOU
MEAN YOU'VE
NEVER THOUGHT
THAT IT'S JUST
BECAUSE YOU'RE
INCOMPETENT?

AND WHAT'S
THAT LINE
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN
ANYWAY?

YOU COULD
AT LEAST
WATCH ANIME
WITHOUT
COMPLAINING,
HI-KUN.



ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 2

By the way, I like chocolate bananas. And parfaits--I love chocolate parfaits. When I was in the hospital, I wanted to eat them so much. (Also steak, hamburgers, gyozuza...)

Fruits Basket 7:
Part 2

When I broke my left arm, I had to stay in the hospital for a while. I even had to undergo surgery, which, fortunately, was a success. And so I have returned! There may be some people who think that my handwriting's gotten sloppy since I've recovered, but my handwriting's *always* been sloppy, so please don't worry about it. And I'm sorry it's hard to read (laugh). Apparently the surgery I had came with a lot of risks, but surgery itself is like that, and I was pretty desperate, so I had no second thoughts. It was much harder for me to not be working.



MEMBERS OF THE ZODIAC GET SO FEW OPPORTUNITIES TO FLIRT...

WHETHER OUR HEARTS LEAD US "OUTSIDE" OR EVEN WITHIN THE SOHMA ESTATE, WE MUST BE PREPARED!

...FLIRTING WITH DISASTER AS WE ARE, IN OUR CONDITION. WE MUSN'T MISS A CHANCE TO PRACTICE.



WHA?!

ANYWAY, JUST GO WITH THE FLOW.

THE FACT THAT YOU'RE GETTING SO WORKED UP ABOUT IT IS PROOF THAT YOU ARE AT A REBELLIOUS AGE, TOO.



"FINE ADULT" ...?

YOU HAVE TO BUILD CHARACTER AND BECOME A FINE ADULT LIKE MYSELF.

SEE? YOU GET MAD RIGHT AWAY.



LOOK WHO'S TALKING!!

IF ALL YOU HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE IS COMPLAINTS, EVEN A SNOT-NOSED KID CAN DO THAT.



STOP! STOP, KYO-CHAN!

HAH?!

HII-KUN IS AT A REBELLIOUS AGE.



SINCE WHEN DID THE CAT SET THE RULES FOR THIS HOUSE?

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT YOU CONTRIBUTE MORE TO THIS HOUSE THAN ANYONE ELSE? DO YOU PAY ALL THE BILLS?

I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE WHO DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING BUT COMPLAIN ALL THE TIME!



KYO-CHAN, KYO-CHAN... HOW LITTLE YOU UNDERSTAND.

You're the one who was talking about moderation! Remember? Let go of my head!

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT AGE THAT PUNK IS!

IF HE'S GOING TO HIT ON PEOPLE, HE CAN DO IT AT HIS OWN HOUSE!



I DON'T
LIKE HER.

HIRO-
CHAN...

AND
YOU! STOP
LISTENING TO
EVERYTHING
HE SAYS!

I'LL GET
YOU MORE
RIGHT
AWAY.

HIRO-
CHAN,
DO
YOU...

...HATE
ONEE-
CHAN?

I DIDN'T
THINK IT
POSSIBLE,
BUT THIS
HOUSE GETS
NOISIER
EVERY DAY.



I WANT TO
TAKE YOU
SOMEWHERE
YOU'LL BE
HAPPY.

TH--

THEN
WHY
DO YOU
TAKE ME
HERE?

BECAUSE
YOU...

...YOU LIKE
HER...

...KISA.



OH MY.

A PERSON
WHO CAN'T
MAKE HIS
DEADLINES
IS A "FINE
ADULT"?



WHY, WHY, WHY
DON'T YOU KEEP
YOUR DEADLINES?

SHE WAS
STANDING AT
THE GATE
LIKE SHE
WAS ABOUT
TO HANG
HERSELF.

Hee
hee hee

WHY
INDEED...

EH?!



Sob sob sob...

And I'd
like some
more
tea.

LIKE
YOU'RE
ONE TO
TALK!

SHE'S SO
NOISY. AND
WHO DOES
SHE THINK
SHE IS
COMING
IN HERE
AND
MAKING
DEMANDS?

THERE, THERE.
I UNDERSTAND.
I'LL GET
STARTED
WRITING
NOW.

STUPID
SENSE!!

Waaah!!



...I...

...I ALWAYS
THOUGHT
THAT
HIRO-CHAN
HATED ME...



I--

I'M...SORRY.
DEEP DOWN,
HIRO-CHAN...

...IS A
KIND
PERSON
...

Tee hee.

YOU TWO
REALLY
ARE CLOSE
FRIENDS,
AREN'T YOU?



I DIDN'T...
KNOW
WHY...

...BUT RECENTLY
HE STARTED
ACTING DISTANT...
AND EVEN WHEN
HE DID TALK TO
ME, HE WAS
SO COLD...

WHEN I WAS
STILL IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL,
HE WOULD
ALWAYS..PLAY
WITH ME...

"I WAS
REALLY
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU,
TOO, KISA!"

I WAS SO
HAPPY...

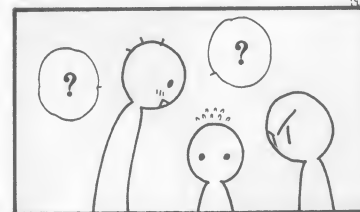
SO I WAS
REALLY
SURPRISED...



SORRY FOR THE
WAIT!

HERE'S
YOUR TEA!

Sheesh,
I've had
enough of
these
kids.



BATH-
ROOM.



...MM!

WHEN I'M...
WITH ONEE-
CHAN...

...I FEEL
WARM
INSIDE...



ギッ
glare

HE HADN'T
EVEN IMAGINED
WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN WHEN
HE TOLD AKITO
ABOUT IT.

POOR
HIRO...

HE MAY
HAVE
BEEN TOO
AFRAID
NOT TO.

I
LOVE
KISA.

IN THE
END,
AKITO...

...GAVE KISA
WOUNDS THAT
TOOK TWO
WEEKS TO
FULLY HEAL.

...THERE MAY
BE SOMETHING
PAINFUL.

CHAOTIC
FEELINGS.

FEELINGS
THAT THEY
CAN'T BREAK
OFF.

SWIRLING
AROUND INSIDE
HIRO-SAN'S
SMALL BODY...

BUT
THERE
MIGHT
BE...

...ANOTHER
REASON,
TOO.

THE JULINISHI
HAVE TO
SUFFER SO
MUCH AS
MEMBERS OF
THE ZODIAC.

... "A BOY'S
SHYNESS"?

"WHETHER OUR
HEARTS LEAD US
'OUTSIDE' OR EVEN
WITHIN THE SOHMA
ESTATE, WE MUST
BE PREPARED!"

I SEE...

IS THAT
WHAT THEY
MEAN BY...



THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS.

ABOUT WHAT?

I THOUGHT AKITO TOLD YOU ABOUT EVERYTHING.

IN THE END, EVEN I CAN'T BE TRUSTED, EITHER.

Ha ha!

I'M SURPRISED.

SO NOW HE'S TAKING IT OUT ON TOHRU-KUN!

THE IRRATIONALITY OF YOUTH!

Now it all makes sense.



YOU'RE SO CHILDISH.

YUP.



A REAL BRAT, THROUGH AND THROUGH.

You'd be surprised.



WHATEVER WE CHOOSE TO DO, MISTAKES WE MAKE...

...AKITO WILL BE THE ONE TO PAY FOR IT IN THE END.

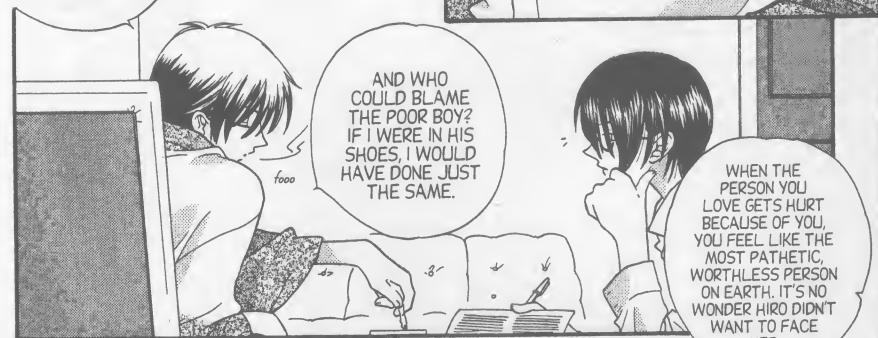


APPARENTLY, AFTER THE INCIDENT, HIRO DID ALL HE COULD TO AVOID KISA.

AND IT WAS DURING THAT TIME THAT KISA STARTED GETTING TEASED AGAIN.

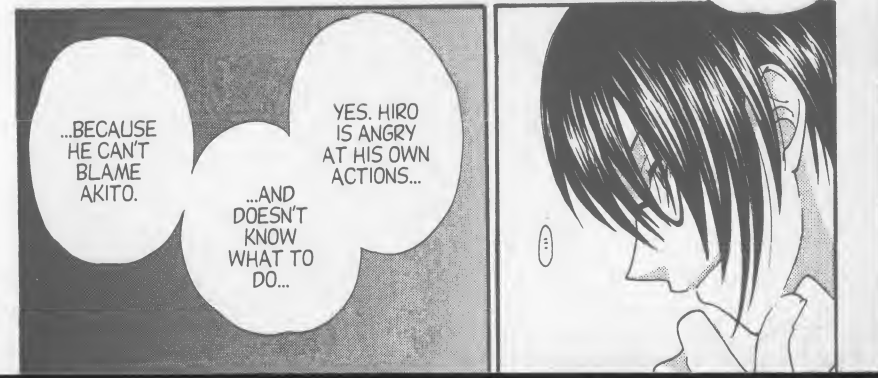
WELL, OF COURSE SHE WOULD BE! HER SHINING KNIGHT WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

AKITO GAVE HER THE OL' BLACK AND BLUE TREATMENT, HUH?



AND WHO COULD BLAME THE POOR BOY? IF I WERE IN HIS SHOES, I WOULD HAVE DONE JUST THE SAME.

WHEN THE PERSON YOU LOVE GETS HURT BECAUSE OF YOU, YOU FEEL LIKE THE MOST PATHETIC, WORTHLESS PERSON ON EARTH. IT'S NO WONDER HIRO DIDN'T WANT TO FACE HER.



...BECAUSE HE CAN'T BLAME AKITO.

YES. HIRO IS ANGRY AT HIS OWN ACTIONS...

...AND DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...



TAKE US
SOMEWHERE
FUN.



Welcome!

YOU WENT
TO THE
TROUBLE OF
COMING HERE
ON THE WAY
HOME FROM
SCHOOL?!

THAT'S RIGHT.
WE CAME
TO YOU. WE
WERE TIRED
OF WAITING.



WHERE
ON
EARTH
...?

AH, WELL,
UM, BUT--!

DON'T MAKE
US ANY MORE
TIRED. HURRY
AND TAKE US
SOMEWHERE.



THIS
BUSINESS OF
FALLING IN
LOVE WITH
SOMEONE...

...AND
TAKING
CARE OF
THEM.

HEY, YOU!

YOU'RE NOT
WORKING
TODAY,
RIGHT?



AKITO'S
ANGER...

I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT
WHETHER
SHE'LL HAVE
TO FACE IT.



NOT
HARDLY.

RIGHT...

AND SO
YOU'RE EVER
THE ADULT,
HAA-SAN.



Because
I'm the
king!

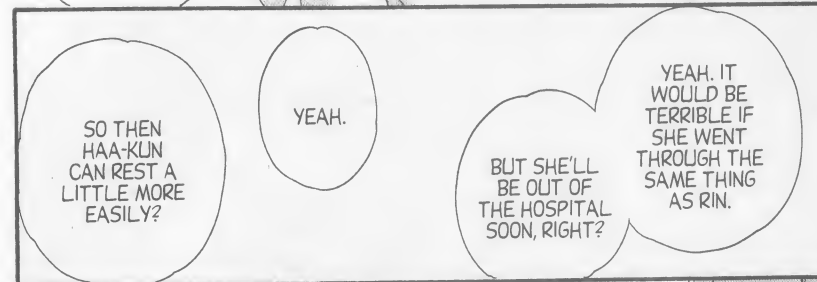
So...

AAYA
IS?

SUCH
TRIVIAL
LABELS.

Ha ha!

ha



SO THEN
HAA-KUN
CAN REST A
LITTLE MORE
EASILY?

YEAH.

BUT SHE'LL
BE OUT OF
THE HOSPITAL
SOON, RIGHT?

YEAH. IT
WOULD BE
TERRIBLE IF
SHE WENT
THROUGH THE
SAME THING
AS RIN.



WE
ALL...

...REALLY
SUCK AT
THIS.

YOU
KNOW...



OH
N--

I'M SORRY
FOR BEING SO
CONCEITED.

I REALLY SHOULD
LEARN MORE
OF THE JOYS
AND SORROWS,
BITTERNESS AND
SWEETNESS, OF
THE WORLD.

IF I WERE TO
SAY THAT...

...WOULD
YOU BE
HAPPY?

I'LL BE
GOOD NOW,
I PROMISE!
PLEASE
DON'T GET
MAD.

HUH?!

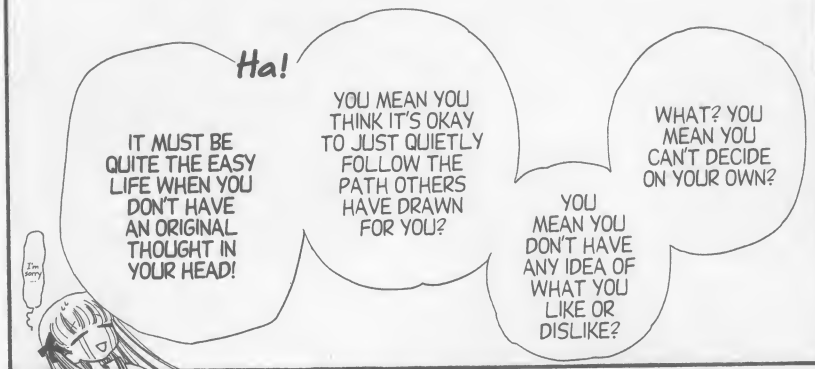
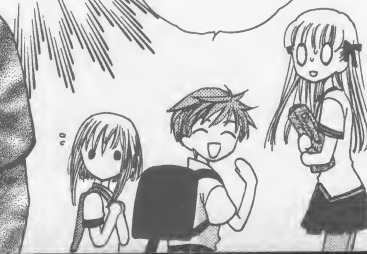
AH...



I WANNA
PUNCH
HIM.

BYE-BYE!

I WANNA
WRING HIS
LITTLE
NECK!!



Ha!

IT MUST BE
QUITE THE EASY
LIFE WHEN YOU
DON'T HAVE
AN ORIGINAL
THOUGHT IN
YOUR HEAD!

YOU MEAN YOU
THINK IT'S OKAY
TO JUST QUIETLY
FOLLOW THE
PATH OTHERS
HAVE DRAWN
FOR YOU?

WHAT? YOU
MEAN YOU
CAN'T DECIDE
ON YOUR OWN?

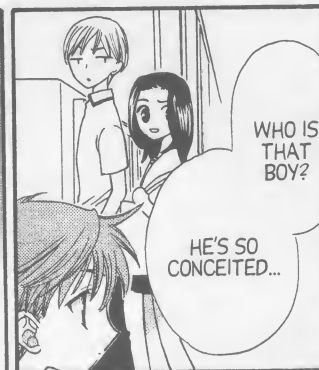
YOU
MEAN YOU
DON'T HAVE
ANY IDEA OF
WHAT YOU
LIKE OR
DISLIKE?



THEY'RE
RIGHT.

I REALLY
AM...

...CONCEITED.



WHO IS
THAT BOY?

HE'S SO
CONCEITED...



I hate kids
like that.

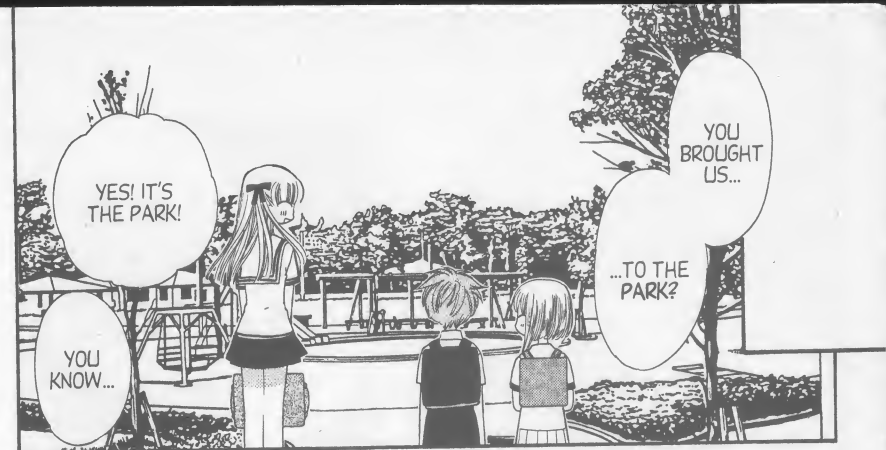
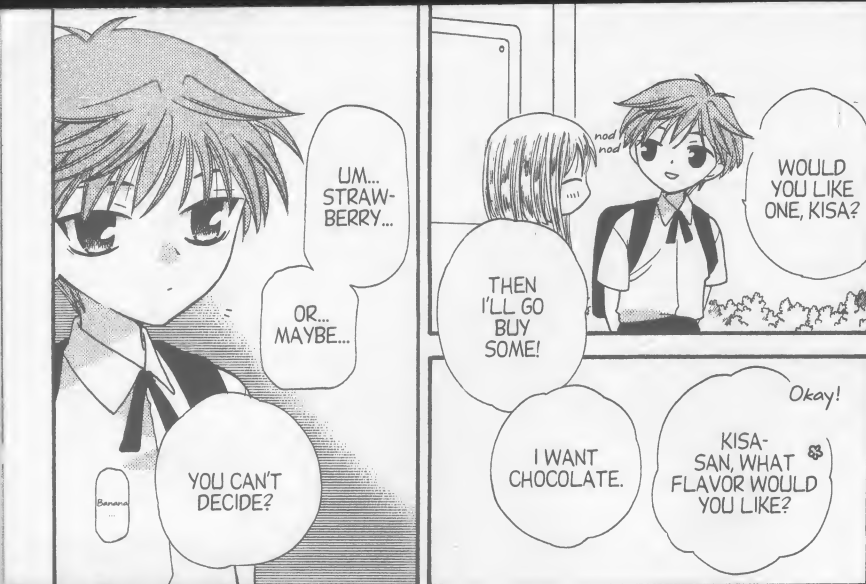
THINKS HE'S
SMARTER THAN
EVERYONE
ELSE...

That girl should
tell him off.

YOU LOOKING
AT ME, PUNK?
I'LL BREAK
YOUR NOSE.

Or something.

?!



Sign: Desserts to Die For
Crepe Crepe



AND I STILL
THINK I LOVE
KISA. IT'S
NOT FAIR
OF ME.

I KNEW SHE WAS
BEING TEASED,
BUT I DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING.

I DISTANCED
MYSELF LIKE
I WAS RUNNING
AWAY.

IT
WASN'T
FAIR!

WHY...?

WHY
AM I...

...BUT I
COULDN'T
TELL HER
ANYTHING.

...SO
CHILDISH?

I...

I GOT KISA
HURT SO
BADLY...

AND I
COULDN'T
BRING IT UP
AGAIN WITH
THAT PERSON,
EITHER.

BUT...

I DON'T
REALLY
KNOW
WHY...

BUT...
AKITO-SAN
WAS
REALLY
MAD...

WAS IT...

...SOME-
THING I
DID?

I LOVE
HER.

I WANTED TO
BE FREE TO
ACT ON MY
FEELINGS...

...AND WANTED
THAT PERSON TO
UNDERSTAND.

...IF IT HAD
BEEN HER IN
MY POSITION..

I WONDER...

...WOULD SHE
HAVE DONE
BETTER AT
PROTECTING
KISA?



I REALLY CAN'T THINK OF YOU AS BEING IN SIXTH GRADE.

Hey!

I'M NOT ASKING FOR YOUR HELP!

OR ARE YOU TRYING TO FLATTER ME?

NO, THAT'S NOT IT!



HIRO-SAN, YOU'RE AMAZING!



MY MOM SAID THAT...

...THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE AFRAID TO ADMIT...

...THAT THEY'RE STILL CHILDREN.

NOT LIKE THIS...

I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THIS... I WANT...



I HATE MYSELF SO MUCH I COULD DIE.



I'M EVEN JEALOUS OF THIS RANDOM GIRL WHO SHOWED UP OUT OF NOWHERE!

I'M PATHETIC.

...TO BE A MUCH, MUCH BETTER GROWNUP.



I'M JUST A KID.

I KNOW.

IT'S TRUE. TALK IS ALL I'M GOOD AT.

I'M A CLUMP OF VANITY.

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING!

I'M JUST A KID...!



WELL...



YOU
WOULD BE
RIGHT.



IS THAT
WHAT
YOU'RE
SAYING?



THE COURAGE
TO DO MY BEST...

SO
YOU'RE
SAYING...



YOUR
CREPES
ARE READY.
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.

Ah!

YES. LET
ME--



...SO TODAY,
I'LL MAKE AN
EXCEPTION
AND TREAT
YOU.

I'VE
GOT IT.

YOUR
LITTLE
SERMON WAS
WORTH THE
PRICE OF A
CREPE...



HIRO-SAN
...

...YOU
CAN DO
THINGS.



YOU
CAN BE THE
WONDERFUL
PRINCE WHO
PROTECTS
KISA-SAN.

BECAUSE
INSIDE YOU,
HIRO-SAN...

...HAVE
COURAGE.

...YOU DO...



...PEOPLE WHO
CAN ADMIT
THAT...

SO...



...HAVE
A LOT OF
COURAGE,
SHE SAYS.



WATCH.

ARE YOU
HAPPY ABOUT
SOMETHING?

I'LL
BECOME
ONE.

I WON'T FAIL.

BUT EVEN
WHEN I DIE,
I'LL NEVER
THANK HER.

Hiro-san,
your
change.

?



IF...

...I CAN'T
BECOME
ONE.

WHAT DOES
SHE MEAN,
'PRINCE'?

HOW CAN SHE
TALK LIKE
THAT WHEN
SHE DOESN'T
EVEN KNOW
ME?

You
do...

...have
courage.

WILL
SHE TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY
IF I CAN'T
LIVE UP TO
THAT?

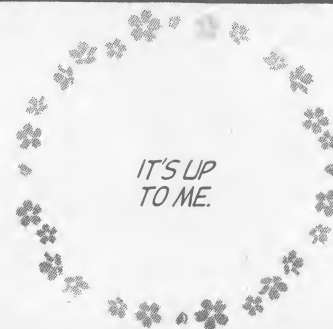
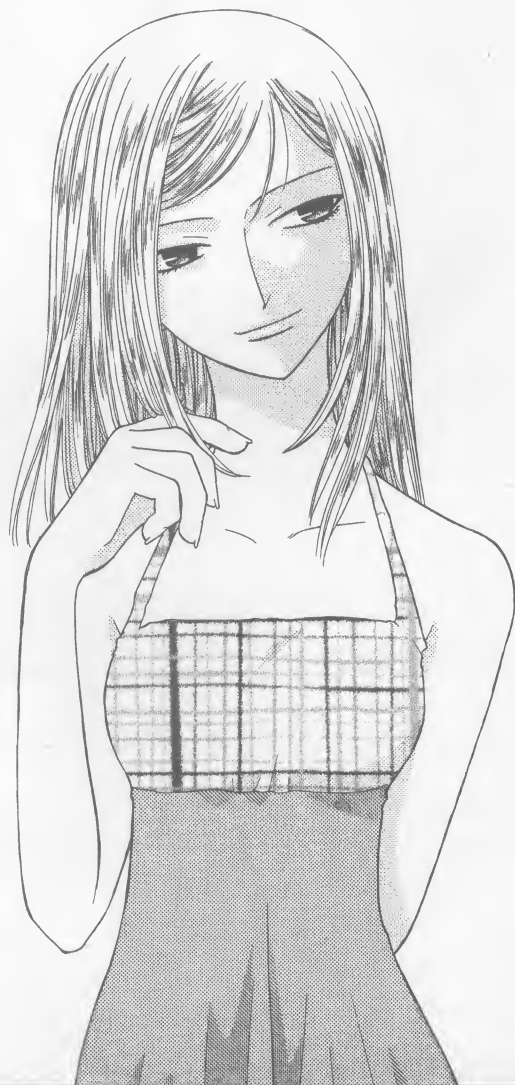
SHE'S SO
EMBARRASSING.

...

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?

HIRO-
CHAN?

Chapter 39





ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 3

There are a lot of Sohma men who hate summer, starting with the Mabudachi Trio. They prefer kotatsu (heated blankets) and oranges.



Fruits Basket 7:
Part 3

When I first arrived at the hospital, I was pretty nervous, but before I knew it, I was sleeping like a baby. All night long! I would fall asleep before nine and wake up at five, and I ate three meals a day... I hadn't lived like that since middle school. Even though I was in the hospital I found myself thinking, "This is a healthy life!" (laugh). Normally I don't watch much TV, but as I had so much time on my hands I ended up watching dramas and stuff and for some reason I got hooked on baseball--it was crazy. For me. But as I had to go to sleep before nine there were a lot of times when I never found out who won... (Unless it went 'til morning, I wouldn't know the score...)





YO!

BOYS, YOU WANNA SEE HER IN A BIKINI OR A ONE PIECE?!

DON'T ASK ME!!!



YOU DRAGGED US HERE BY FORCE!

THEN YOU SHOULDN'T'VE COME WITH US.

EXACTLY. SO WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE?



IF YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT, THEN CUT LOOSE AND HAVE SOME FUN.



HEY, I'M TALKING TO YOU!

GET OVER HERE AND HELP OUT!

LOOK, YOU... YOU DON'T BRING GUYS TO PLACES LIKE THIS!



I'M BEGGING YOU. PLEASE DON'T LET THIS TERRIBLE CRIME CONTINUE!!

OKAY?

TOHRU-KUN!!

WE MUST BUY ONE.

WE MUST BUY YOU A PROPER ONE RIGHT NOW.

HE HAS A WEAK SPOT FOR TOHRU-KUN, TOO...



THERE'S JUST SO MANY TO CHOOSE FROM...

SHOULD WE GO WITH A ONE PIECE?

HMM...

YOU'RE NOT MAKING THIS EASY, TOHRU.

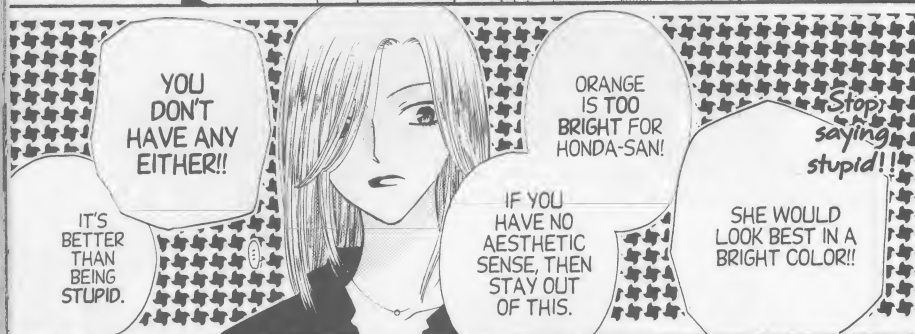


YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE PICKING THAT STUPID COLOR BECAUSE IT REMINDS YOU OF A CERTAIN STUPID PERSON?

"BLUE"?

WELL YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE SAYING ORANGE...

WHAT THE HELL?! HOW CAN YOU LOOK AT HER AND THINK OF SUCH A DREARY COLOR?



YOU DON'T HAVE ANY EITHER!!

IT'S BETTER THAN BEING STUPID.

ORANGE IS TOO BRIGHT FOR HONDA-SAN!

IF YOU HAVE NO AESTHETIC SENSE, THEN STAY OUT OF THIS.

SHE WOULD LOOK BEST IN A BRIGHT COLOR!!

Stop saying stupid!!



There's just no way I'll let her wear HIS color!!

I SAID SHE LOOKS GOOD IN ORANGE, SO ORANGE!!

BLUE!

THOSE TWO ARE SO PREDICTABLE.

PINK

Are they in denial or just dense?



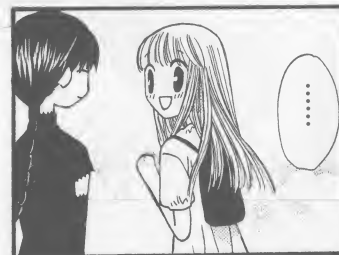
YOU CAN AT LEAST THINK OF A COLOR THAT LOOKS GOOD ON TOHRU, RIGHT?!

OKAY, FINE, THEN. COLOR!

HAVE SOME SHAME, WOMAN!!

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE ASKING YOU WHAT KIND OF PANTIES YOU LIKE.

I'm begging you!



...



ORANGE?

BLUE...?



BUT THEY
SURE ARE
GOOD-
LOOKING...

YES... SO GOOD-
LOOKING.....

PUNKS LIKE
THEM, THEY'D
PROBABLY RUN
AWAY AND
CRY TO THEIR
MOMMIES
SOON AS THEY
SAW US!

AIN'T
THAT THE
TRUTH.

....

IT'S
BUT A SMALL
TOKEN OF OUR
GRATITUDE.

UM, BUT--!

...A
PRESENT?!

EH...?

YOU GUYS
GOT ME...

Respectable?
You, respectable?

Of
course I
am.

SO
WHATTA
WE DO?

MAKES
ME FEEL
RESPECTABLE.

SHE'S THE
ONLY THING IN
THIS WORLD
THAT CAN
ALWAYS PUT
A SMILE ON
MY FACE.

BUT SHE'S
GOT GUYS
WITH HER.

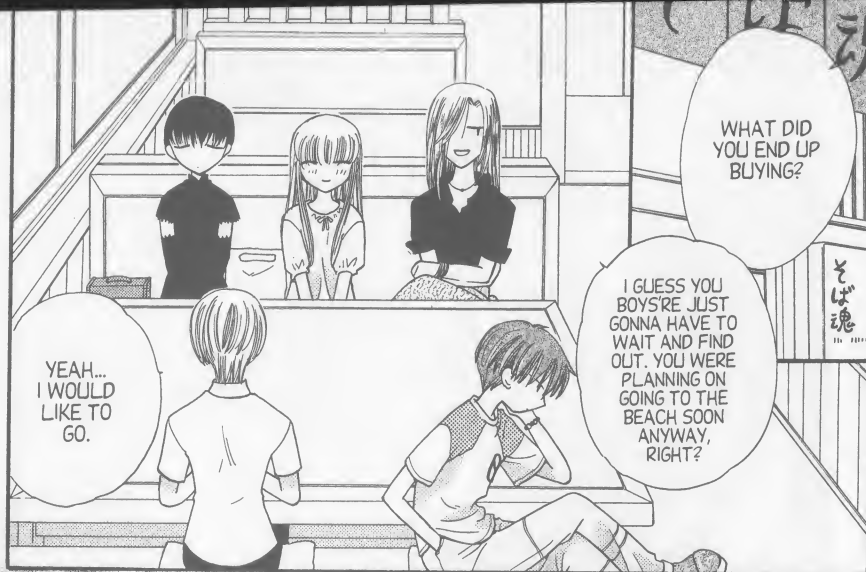
YOU
IDIOT.

YOU AIN'T
AFRAID
OF THOSE
AMATEURS,
ARE YA?

THAT'S
HER,
RIGHT?
UOTANI.

SHE SURE IS
ACTING ALL
BIG, NOW THAT
SHE'S QUIT
HER GANG.

I SAY WE
SHOW HER
HER PLACE.
KNOCK HER
DOWN A FEW
PEGS.



WHAT DID YOU END UP BUYING?

I GUESS YOU BOYS'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO WAIT AND FIND OUT. YOU WERE PLANNING ON GOING TO THE BEACH SOON ANYWAY, RIGHT?

YEAH... I WOULD LIKE TO GO.

Sign: Soba Tamashii (soulful noodles)

I CAUSED A BIT OF A PROBLEM IN MY PREVIOUS MIDDLE SCHOOL...

I look forward to it...

YES!

WE SHOULD GO SOMEWHERE, JUST THE THREE OF US.

YOU REALLY DO GET ALONG WELL... DO YOU KNOW EACH OTHER FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

NO, WE MET IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

YES...

HANAJIMA TRANSFERRED IN DURING OUR SECOND YEAR.

REALLY...

NNGH...



TH--

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

I'LL... I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!



OH, NO, UM, I, THAT IS--!

IT'S OKAY; JUST TAKE IT.

YES... WE WANT YOU TO HAVE IT ...

TAKE IT...

...HONDA-SAN.



TOHRU!

TOHRU-KUN...

FEELING LEFT-OUT

I'D START FIGHTS...

...START FIRES, GET CHASED BY THE POLICE...

IF I TOLD YOU ALL THE STUFF I DID, YOUR EARS WOULD ROT.

ANYWAY, I WAS A HOPELESS IDIOT.

BUT AS COCKY AS I WAS...

...THERE WAS STILL SOMEONE I REALLY LOOKED UP TO.

THAT WAS KYOKO-SAN.

WHY IS IT SO EASY TO TURN BAD?

BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HAD JOINED THE LADIES.

I WAS SURROUNDED BY THE WRONG KIND OF PEOPLE...

...AND WAS ALWAYS GETTING INTO TROUBLE.



YOU WERE STILL IN ACTIVE SERVICE THEN, WEREN'T YOU, LIO-CHAN?

YOU'RE...

YUP!

I DEBUTED IN MY GROUP IN FIFTH GRADE.

?!

AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH.

...A Hardcore DELINQUENT!

No shame ...

WHY ARE THEY SO CHEERFUL?

That's true.

Ah ha ha ha!

OH, NO... YOU DO THAT NOW, ARISA...

UH-HUH. AND I PLUCKED MY EYEBROWS AND WORE A LONG SKIRT.

YOU WERE ALWAYS WEARING A MASK BACK THEN.



HOW SHOULD I PUT IT? KINDA LIKE A LION THAT HASN'T BEEN FED.

I WAS DEFINITELY ONE OF THOSE PROBLEM KIDS THAT MY TEACHERS AND PARENTS COULDN'T HANDLE.

WELL, BACK THEN I WAS A LOT ANGRIER THAN I AM NOW.

MAYBE SHE'S
GOING TO
YOUR MIDDLE
SCHOOL?

ARE YOU
SERIOUS,
SENPAI?

YEAH.
HEAR SHE GOT
HITCHED TO
SOME SQUARE
NAMED HONDA
AWHILE BACK.

THEY SAY
SHE'S GOT A
DAUGHTER
'BOUT YOUR
AGE.

WAS THERE
A GIRL NAMED
HONDA AT MY
SCHOOL?

I DON'T
SEE HOW
I COULDA
MISSED A
GIRL LIKE
THAT.

It's not
like I go
to school
enough to
notice...

Imagination

IF SHE'S
KYOKO-SAN'S
DAUGHTER...

...I'LL BET
SHE'S
A REAL
YANKEE.

BUT IF I
PLAY MY
CARDS
RIGHT...

...I MIGHT
GET TO MEET
THE REAL
KYOKO-SAN!

It's Uotani!

Scary...

crash

SHE WAS A
TOUGH FIGHTER
AND DESPITE HER
REPUTATION, SHE
HAD PRINCIPLES-
HATED PHONIES.

SHE BEAT UP
MEN TWICE
HER SIZE AND,
DESPITE BEING
A WOMAN,
BECAME THE
LEADER OF A
SUICIDE SQUAD.
THEY CALLED
HER THE "RED
BUTTERFLY."

THEY SAY WHEN
SHE RODE HER
BIKE, THE RED
TAILLIGHTS
LOOKED LIKE
A DANCING
BUTTERFLY.

THE MORE I
HEARD ABOUT
HER FROM THE
OLDER GIRLS,
THE MORE
I LOOKED UP
TO HER.

FOR ME,
THAT
WAS
KYOKO-
SAN.

YOU START
OBSESSING ABOUT
HOW GREAT
SOMEONE IS,
AND BEFORE YOU
KNOW IT, YOU
HAVE A HERO.

YOU KNOW
WHAT I'M
TALKING
ABOUT,
RIGHT?

OH YEAH,
I HEARD
SOMETHING.

THEY SAY THE
BUTTERFLY'S
LIVING 'ROUND
HERE NOW.

HEH
HEH.

YOU REALLY
DIG THE
BUTTERFLY,
DONTCHA,
UOTANI?

SHE
SAID DON'T
STEP ON IT,
DUMBASS!!

WHAT'S
WITH
THIS
GIRL?

PLEASE,
DON'T STEP
ON THAT...

UH, ER,
UM, DON'T
STEP ON...

AND
YOU! STOP
STANDING
AROUND
AND PICK
THOSE UP!!

YES!

AW, JEEZ.
YOU'RE KIDDING
ME, RIGHT?
MAKING ME PICK
UP AFTER YOU?!

IF YOU'RE
TRYING TO
MESS WITH
ME BY SAYING
YOU'RE THE RED
BUTTERFLY'S
DAUGHTER, I'LL
SEND YOU TO
THE NURSE'S
OFFICE...

HONDA?!

AH, UM,
TOHRU...
TOHRU
HONDA...

WHAT'S
YOUR NAME,
ANYWAY?!

UH...
HEY, BE
CAREFUL!

Moron

Y-YES, I'M
SO SORRY!

I'LL BE
CAREFUL
FROM NOW
ON...!

I'M
SORRY...

I'M...

WH-
WH-WHAT
SHOULD I
DO? THIS IS
TERRIBLE!

OH, I'M
REALLY...!

AAH!!



HOW CAN I PUT IT?

UM...

MAY I CALL YOU UOTANI-SAN?

HUH? UH, YEAH...



I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED...

...IS KYOKO-SAN'S DAUGHTER?



IT'S LIKE...

LIKE... HER ALRA...



IT'S VERY NICE TO MEET YOU...

...UOTANI-SAN!



OH... YES!

THAT WAS MY MOM'S NAME FROM WHEN SHE WAS IN A GANG!

SAY GOODBYE TO THOSE PRETTY TEETH.

EH?

EH?!!!

EH?!



ARE YOU SERIOUS?

PLEASE, COME AND SEE MY MOM!

THIS ...



THIS PERSON...

WHAT THE...?

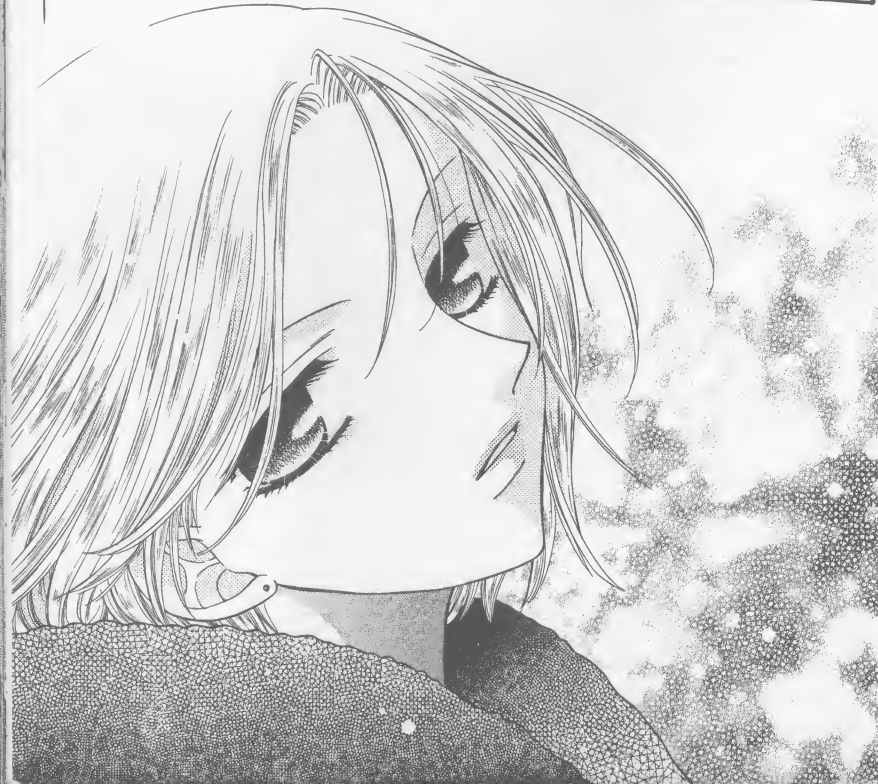
YUP.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

Listen, listen! Today--

Ah... Mom, before that... There's some one who wants to meet...

...IS KYOKO.



WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME HOME, TOHRU!

I'M HOME.

YOU'RE... HEAVY, MOM.

IT'S DESTINY THAT WE MET ON YOUR WAY HOME!

WH--



SHE'S A STRANGE ONE ALL RIGHT...



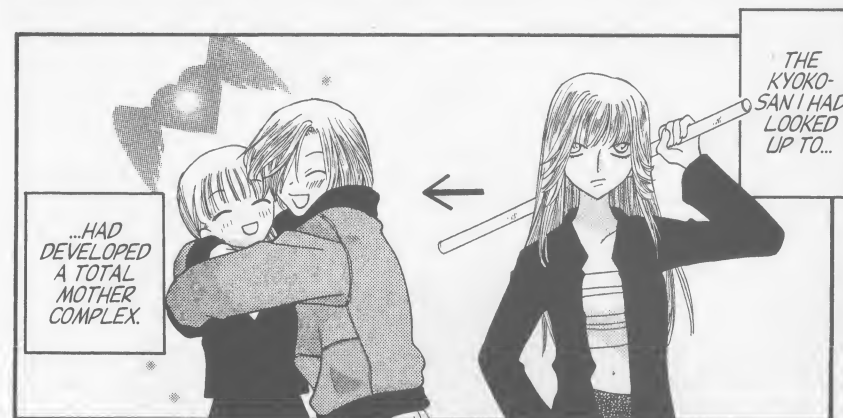
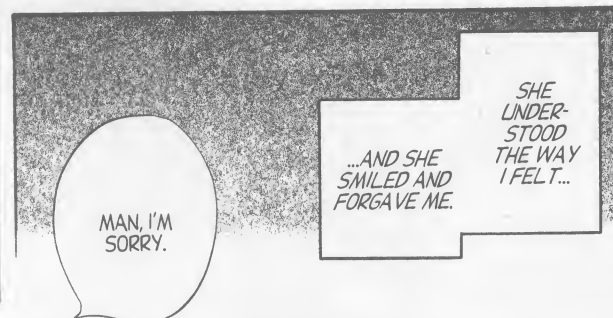
?!

Chapter 40



Fruits Basket 7: Part 4

It was strange that, as the days went on, the hospital bed became "my bed." There was more and more of my stuff nearby. I hated that I couldn't play video games (laugh). Apparently, the day before my operation, my mother and people couldn't sleep. But, as usual, Takaya slept like a log! I thought again about how those situations are harder on the loved ones than they are on the actual patient. (It's a kind of torture, especially for family.) But when it came time for the actual surgery, even I had a hard time. Yup—I finally got scared. Yeah, it's scary, really...



ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 4

Having your heart shaken by a fictional character, or being made to cry for them, is very sad, but I think it's a good thing. I know it sounds negative, but it's really a positive experience. It is! I'm not making any sense, am I? No, I'm sorry.



NO, UM, I...
I'VE GOTTA
GET HOME.

WHAT'S THE
RUSH? HAVE
SOME DINNER
FIRST.

TOHRU'S
COOKING IS
GREAT!

OH, NO,
IT'S NOT...

By the
way, what
are we
having?



??!

"UO-
CHAN"?!

BY THE
WAY, UO-CHAN,
WHILE YOU'RE
HERE, WOULD
YOU LIKE SOME
DINNER?

YOUR
NAME'S
UOTANI,
RIGHT? SO,
UO-CHAN.



HUH...?

Hooray!

PLEASE
EAT
WITH US,
UO-CHAN!



IT'S
ALREADY
CATCHING
ON!!



THE
PLACE IS
SUCH A
MESS.

MAKE
YOURSELF
AT HOME.

gloom
ずん

THE RED
BUTTERFLY
IS DOING
LAUNDRY...



IT WAS
TIME TO
MOVE ON.

WHAT
CAN I
SAY?

AH...

SLAM!



UO-
CHAN!

U-
UO-CHAN,
UM...!

YOU
FORGOT
THIS!

DON'T...



NO,
REALLY.

I'M GOING
HOME.

COME ON,
WHY? IS YOUR
FAMILY THAT
STRICT?

YOU CAN'T
ASSUME
THAT.

PEOPLE
GROW UP IN
ALL SORTS
OF CIRCUM-
STANCES.

YEAH, RIGHT.
AS IF SOMEONE
LIKE ME COULD
HAVE STRICT
PARENTS.



...AND A GOD-
DAMN DOTING
FRICKING
MOTHER!!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
I EVER
LOOKED UP
TO YOU!

I'M JUST
DISAPPOINTED,
OKAY!

TO THINK THE
RED BUTTERFLY
TURNED OUT
TO BE A... A
HOUSEWIFE...
AND A FRIENDLY
HOSTESS...

IS IT
BECAUSE
SHE WAS SO
GODDAMN
CHEERFUL?
I
DON'T
KNOW
...

...SOME-
THING
ABOUT HER
ATTITUDE
JUST...

DID YOU GET
TO MEET THE
BUTTERFLY?



IT'S LIKE
I'M BEING
PRESSED
ON BY
SOME-
THING...
...BUT I
FEEL LIKE
I'M BEING
LEFT
BEHIND.

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH ME?



WHY
IS IT
BOTHERING
ME SO
MUCH?



WHY...

...AM I SO
ANNOYED?



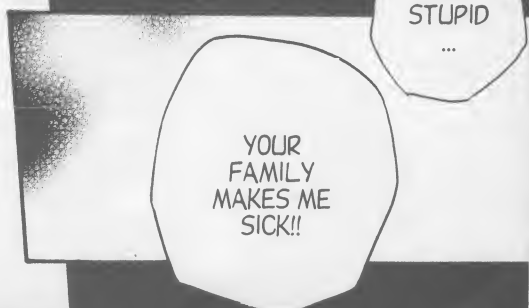
...CALL MY
NAME LIKE
YOU'RE MY
FRIEND!

I HAVE NO
BUSINESS
WITH YOU
ANYMORE.



NOW, BUGGER
OFF AND GO
CRYING HOME
TO MOMMY.

SO
STUPID
...



YOUR
FAMILY
MAKES ME
SICK!!

WHEN I WAS
IN FIRST
GRADE, MY
MOM GOT A
NEW BOY-
FRIEND AND
RAN OFF
WITH HIM.

SINCE
THEN, I'VE
LIVED
ALONE
WITH MY
FATHER.

ALL HE
DOES IS
DRINK.

Ah
ha
ha...

I GOT
NOWHERE
TO GO
TODAY.

A PLACE I
COULD FALL
AS FAR AS
I WANTED.

GUESS I'LL
GO HOME
FOR ONCE.

IT'S JUST
YOUR OLD
MAN AT
HOME,
RIGHT?

IF HE'S
ASLEEP,
SEE WHAT
YOU CAN
"BORROW."

YEAH! BRING
BACK SOME
MONEY.

WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
LOOKING AT,
BITCH?!

YOU WANT
TO DIE?!

YOU WANT A
SCAR THAT'LL
NEVER HEAL?!

ARE THEY
STUPID?

THEY'RE
THE ONES
THAT MADE
US THIS
WAY!

WHAT WAS I
THINKING? THIS
ATTITUDE FITS
ME BETTER.

AIN'T
THAT
ALWAYS
THE WAY?

MY OLD
MAN TOLD
ME NEVER
TO COME
BACK.

SOMEDAY
I'LL SMASH
THAT PRETTY
LITTLE FACE
OF HERS.

WHAT THE
HELL ARE WE
DOING WASTING
OUR TIME HERE
AT SCHOOL,
ANYWAY?

THERE'S
NOTHING TO
GAIN FROM
GOING.

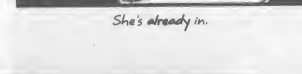
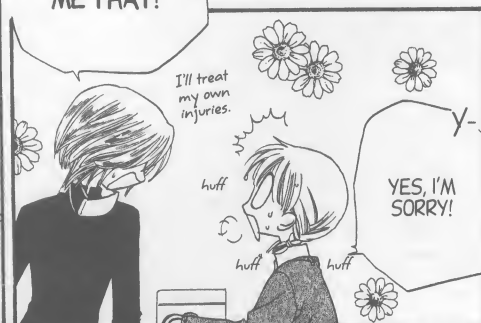
OH... I
DON'T CARE
ABOUT THAT
BITCH ANY-
MORE.

MY
OLD LADY
CALLED ME
TRASH--SAID
I WAS A DIS-
GRACE TO THE
FAMILY. CAN
YOU BELIEVE
THAT?











Later!
See you
tomorrow!

Bye-
bye!

Today
temperatures
rise.

...into
the mid
80s. This
spring-like
weather ...
...will
continue
into the
weekend.

Good
news.
Thanks
for the
update.



chop
chop...

SO CUTE
IT MAKES
ME SICK!

shut

First Aid Kit

TOFU

Mama's

TOFU

Mama's

TOFU

Mama's

TOFU

Mama's

TOFU

chop
chop
chop
chop...

OH YEAH,
THAT
TOFU...

She's
already
fired
dinner

IT MUST
HAVE
BEEN FOR
DINNER.

I WONDER
IF IT'LL
BE OKAY.

click

chop
chop

...EVEN IF I
WAS USED
TO IT...

...I'D THINK
NOTHING OF
TELLING HIM...

IT'S LIKE
I'M THE
ONLY
ONE WHO
DOESN'T
BELONG.

IT'S
UNCOMFORTABLE.

BUT...

I'M NOT
USED
TO THIS
WHOLE...

...FAMILY
VIBE.

I'VE NEVER
HAD IT.

"YOU'RE NOT
MY FATHER!"
AND "DROP
DEAD!"...

WHAT
DIFFERENCE
WOULD IT
MAKE IF I FELT
THAT WAY
OR NOT?

I'M STILL
THE SAME
PERSON.

THAT'S
JUST THE
WAY I AM.

EVEN IF THAT
DAMN FATHER
OF MINE
COOKED DINNER
AND WAITED
FOR ME...

...I'D SAY, I'M
NOT COMING
BACK! AND
"THIS TASTES
LIKE CRAP!"



I'LL TRY.
IT'S JUST...
UNCOMFORTABLE.

WHAT-
EVER.

WE'D
REALLY
LIKE IT IF
YOU STAYED
FOR DINN--

UO-
CHA...

LUOTANI-
SAN!

A TOWN
AT DUSK...

THE SMELL
OF EVENING,
HOUSES
WITH
LIGHTS IN
THEM...

A HOUSE
TO GO HOME
TO AFTER
SAYING
GOODBYE TO
FRIENDS...

SOMEONE
WAITING
FOR MY
RETURN...

A KIND
PERSON...

...WHO
WOULD
GREET WITH
A SMILE...

...JEALOUS...

...OF THAT...

I'M STILL
THE SAME,
AREN'T I?

I'M SO
STUPID...

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH ME?

LIU-CHAN?

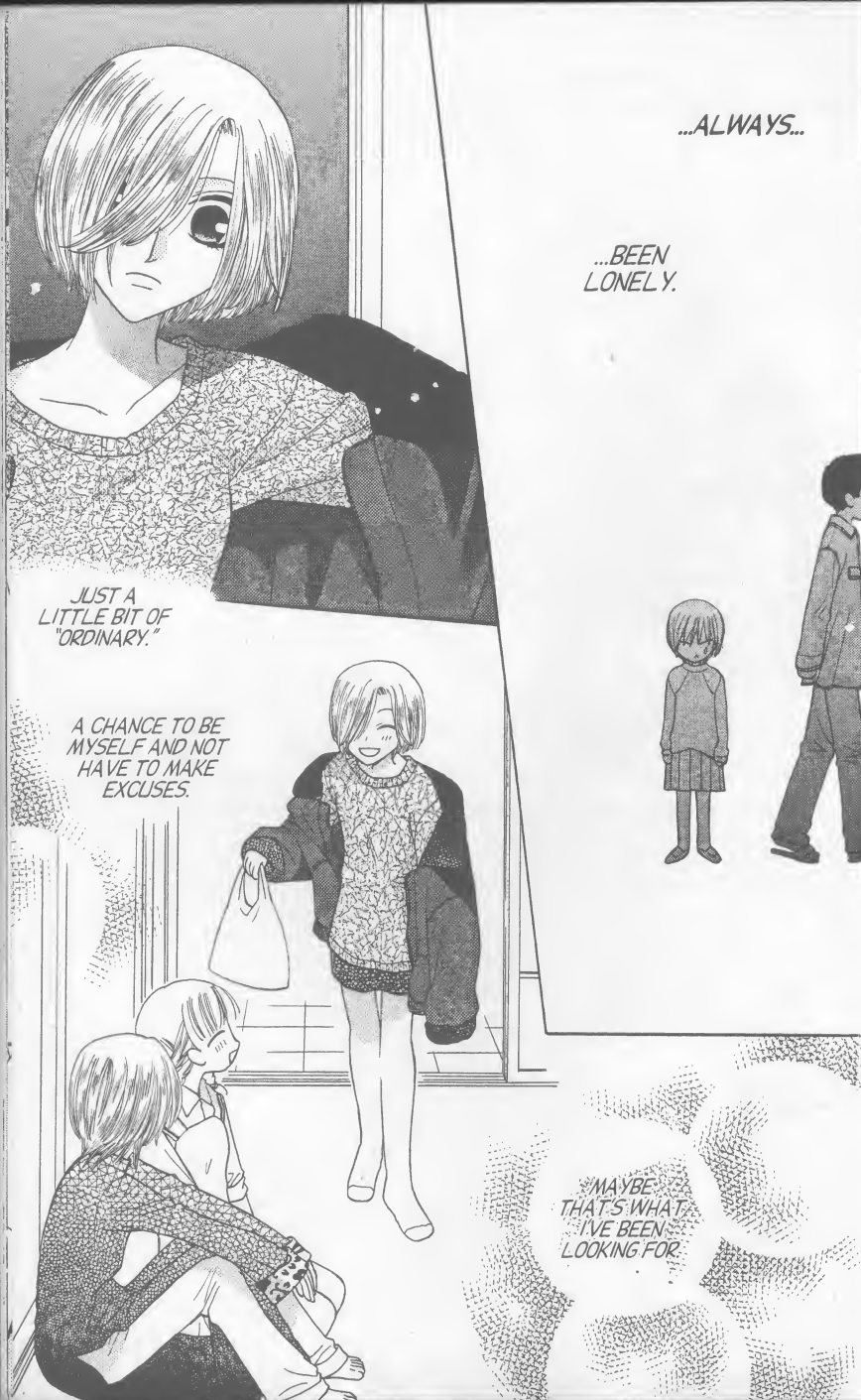
THEY'RE
SO
PHONY!

AH!

No, I
mean...

FOR ME
TO BE...

...WHAT?



...ALWAYS...

...BEEN
LONELY.

JUST A
LITTLE BIT OF
"ORDINARY."

A CHANCE TO BE
MYSELF AND NOT
HAVE TO MAKE
EXCUSES.

"MAYBE
THAT'S WHAT
I'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR."



"WHAT CAN
I SAY?"

"IT WAS
TIME TO
MOVE ON."

MAYBE
I'VE
JUST...

MAYBE

MAYBE

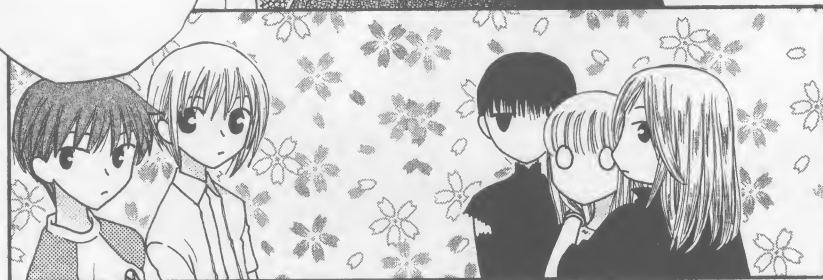
...
...I
WAS...

...LONELY.



COME WITH US, PLUNK.

AND COME ALONE.



WE HAD NO CHOICE!
THAT DEVELOPING
PLACE CLOSES EARLY!

SEE? WE
SHOULD HAVE
TALKED TO
HER SOONER!

YES... I AM
FULL...

LET'S
BLOW
THIS
JOINT.

IT'S BECAUSE
WE WENT TO
GET THE FILM
DEVELOPED!!

SHE'S NOT
LISTENING?!

WAIT,
UOTANI!

Hey!



LOVE...

AT ANY
RATE, IT'S
TOHRU
LOVE!

Heh.

WELL
...

NOW
YOU'VE HEARD
ABOUT MY
EMBARRASSING
ADOLESCENCE.

THAT'S
ENOUGH OF
THAT...



Nngh!

MAYBE
I SHOULD
STOP TALKING
ABOUT THIS
...

UOTANI!

BUT YOU
NEVER...

...GOT TO THE
PART WHERE
YOU BECAME
FRIENDS WITH
TOHRU-SAN'S
MOTHER.

AH!

OH YEAH,
THAT WAS
A MEMORY
OF TOHRU,
WASN'T IT.



Chapter 41





ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 5

Has anyone noticed what's written on Uo-chan's sleeve on the title page to this chapter? It says "Fruits Basket" in phonetic kanji. I was playing around. I'm sorry (laugh).

*I feel
so grateful!*



...da

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,
Mom, Dad...

All the people who worked to
create the anime, all the voice
actors...

From a certain medical school,
T-sensei-sama, I-sensei-sama, all
the nurses... From a certain
hospital, K-sensei-sama, the
acupunctureist, K-sensei-sama...

To everyone who reads and supports
this manga...

Everyone who waited patiently...

And...

Thank you so much for the Christmas presents,
birthday presents and Valentine's chocolate!
I couldn't have got better without you!

Next is Haru.

—Natsuki Takaya



SHE
HAS NO
HEART!!

GOOD LUCK
WITH THAT.

I ADMIRE
YOUR NERVE.
BRING IT ON!!

WHAT'S
GOING ON?

*Army of
delinquents?*

AAHH,
CUT IT
OUT.

MAN... I CAN'T
BELIEVE I
USED TO BE
LIKE THAT...

I WANTED
PEOPLE
TO NOTICE
ME...

...BUT I
ACTED LIKE
I WANTED
TO BE LEFT
ALONE.

SHOULD I
TAKE THEM
ON...?

DON'T.

MAKING
FUN OF
US...

WE MAY
JUST BE
DELINQUENTS
...

...BUT WE'LL BEAT
THE CRAP OUT
OF PEOPLE LIKE
YOU WHO THINK
THEY'RE BETTER
THAN EVERYONE
ELSE! WE'LL GET
A REPUTATION...

...AND
MAKE THIS
TERRITORY
OURS.

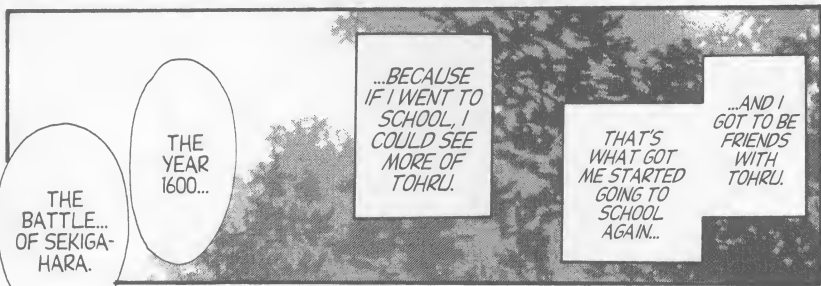
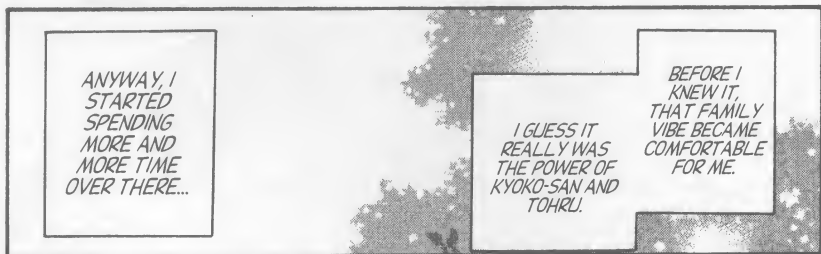
YANKEES!
POSERS.

AND
WHAT ARE
YOU!?!

だん

WE WILL
BUILD AN
ARMY OF
DELINQUENTS
TO BE
FEARED!!

すはん





WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WHAT?

I'M JUST TALKING TO HER.

UOTANI-SAN!

WHEREVER I WENT, WHENEVER I WAS FEELING DOWN, I COULD TURN AROUND...

...AND TOHRU WOULD BE STANDING THERE.



APPARENTLY NO ONE AROUND US...

...COULD BELIEVE THAT WE WERE FRIENDS.



EH...?



BUT...

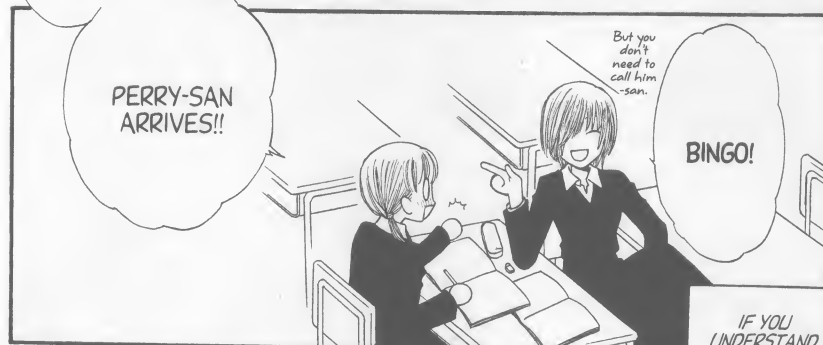


1853...

HINT ONE: FOREIGNERS.

UM... LET'S SEE...

HINT TWO: SHIP.

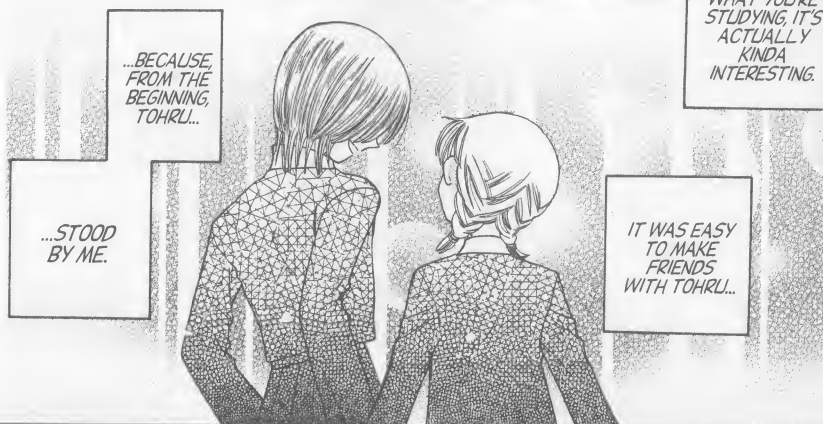


PERRY-SAN ARRIVES!!

But you don't need to call him -san.

BINGO!

IF YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE STUDYING, IT'S ACTUALLY KINDA INTERESTING.



...BECAUSE FROM THE BEGINNING, TOHRU...

...STOOD BY ME.

IT WAS EASY TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH TOHRU...

.....
I'M
SORRY
...

gasp
はっ
But I might be the only
one who thinks so.

ずん

HUH?

gloom

...BUT SHE
MIGHT BE
DOING SOME-
THING BAD
BEHIND THE
SCENES.

MM-HM,
BESIDES,
HONDA-SAN
MAY LOOK
NICE ON THE
OUTSIDE...

IT MIGHT
BE A GOOD
IDEA TO
STAY AWAY
FROM
HONDA-SAN,
TOO.

AND IT
LOOKS LIKE
THE TEACHERS
ARE KEEPING AN
EYE ON THEM...
THERE MUST BE
TROUBLE.

LOTANI
AND
HONDA-SAN
DON'T GO
TOGETHER
AT ALL.

THERE'S
NO WAY
THEY'RE
FRIENDS.

ずん

YEAH,
IF SHE'S
HANGING OUT
WITH THAT
LOTANI.



SUCH AN
HONOR!

B-B-BEST
FRIEND? NO,
THAT WOULD
BE TOO
WONDERFUL!

S-

blush



WHAT THE
HELL? PISSES
ME OFF!

I HEAR
SHE'S GONE
STRAIGHT
AND GOES
TO SCHOOL
NOW.

I HAVEN'T
SEEN
LOTANI
AROUND.

NOT THAT
I COULD
BLAME
THEM.

CALL
HER!

WE HAVE
TO TEACH
HER A
LESSON.

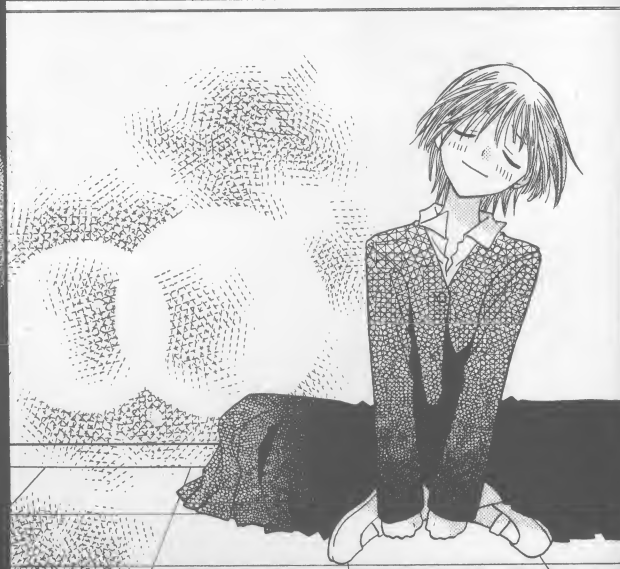


EH!

EH?!!

YOU AND
LOTANI-
SAN...

...ARE
BEST
FRIENDS?



AHH!?

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?

YOU
WANT
OUT!?

MORON!

UOTANI
SAYS SHE
WANTS TO
LEAVE!!



NO DOUBT
ABOUT IT...

...I'M
NOTHING
BUT
TROUBLE
FOR TOHRLI.



She's late.

I CAN'T
GO...

I DON'T
CARE WHAT
THEY THINK
OF ME...
...BUT I DON'T
WANT PEOPLE
TO SAY THAT
STUFF ABOUT
TOHRLI.



Huh?

HONDA-SAN,
ISN'T THAT
ONE TOO
MANY?

I SHOULD
STAY
AWAY.

NOPE!

THIS
ONE'S FOR
UO-CHAN!





I ALSO...

I ALSO
WANTED TO
CHANGE.

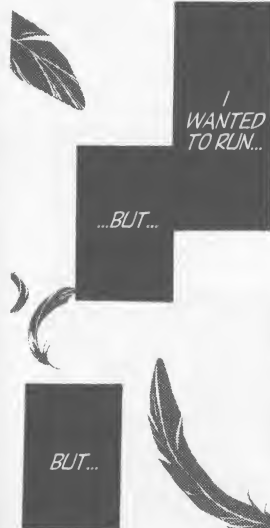
I'D NEVER
FELT THAT
WAY BEFORE.

...BECAUSE...

"I'M THROUGH
BEING LIKE THIS,"
I THOUGHT.
I WANTED TO
CHANGE.

...BECAUSE
I...

I WANTED
TO CHANGE...



I
WANTED
TO RUN...

...BUT...

BUT...



TAKE
THIS!



GATHER
EVERY-
ONE!

...CRAP.

I WAS
SCARED.

I WANTED
TO RUN.

YOU
THINK WE'D
JUST SAY,
"OH REALLY?"
AND LET
YOU GO?

YOU
KNOW THE
PUNISHMENT
FOR LEAVING,
DON'T YOU?

I
KNOW.

THEN GET
READY TO
TAKE IT,
BITCH!



KYO...



...KO...

...SAN?



Fruits Basket 7:
Part 5

Before I was hospitalized, I played video games, but since I couldn't use my left hand, I used my right hand... I mean I used only my right hand. And doing that I realized how much I love analog controllers! They really helped me out this time! I could use those even with my injured left hand.



I can grind it with my fist.

I still have that habit, so when I have to use the directional pad, I feel inconvenienced.... Speaking of which, are they still making left-handed controllers? I want one.... A long time ago, when I was working part-time jobs, it seemed like all the office supplies were made for right-handed people. I cried... (laugh). I thought, "Why must I be left-handed?!"



"I CAN'T STOP THEM MYSELF-- HELP UOTANI!!" SHE SAID.

EH...?

A SENPAI OF YOURS CAME TO OUR HOUSE.

A GIRL WITH A MOLE BY HER MOUTH.

THAT GIRL...



I LIKE HER.

IF SHE WANTS TO LIVE RESPECTABLY, SHE SHOULD.



SHE SHOULD HAVE THE LIFE SHE WANTS.

THAT GIRL...



YOU AWAKE?

UH...!



?!

startle

KYOK--!



IT REALLY WASN'T A DREAM!!

YOUR LEG'S INJURED.

DON'T MOVE, DON'T MOVE.



....



I'M STUPID.



YOU WERE LUCKY, ALL RIGHT.

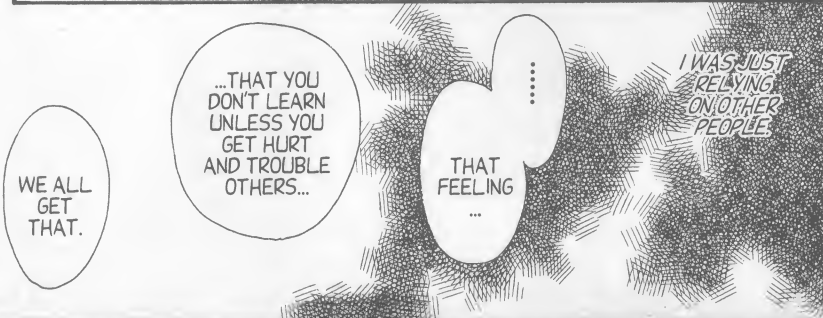


I WAS SO CONFUSED!

I'M SO STUPID!!

UNLESS I GET HURT...

...I DON'T LEARN.

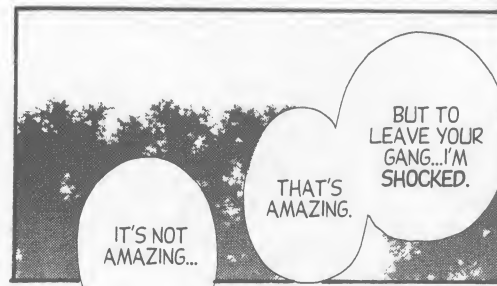


WE ALL GET THAT.

...THAT YOU DON'T LEARN UNLESS YOU GET HURT AND TROUBLE OTHERS...

THAT FEELING ...

I WAS JUST RELYING ON OTHER PEOPLE.



IT'S NOT AMAZING...

THAT'S AMAZING.

BUT TO LEAVE YOUR GANG... I'M SHOCKED.

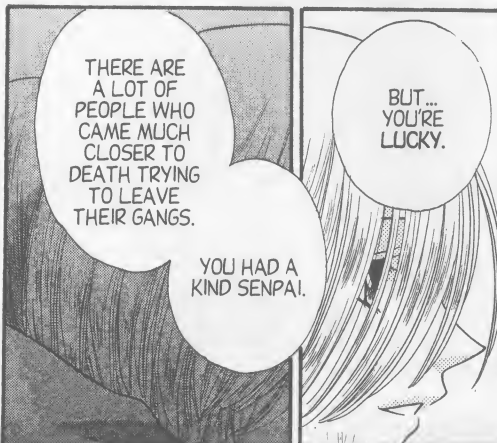


IT JUST CAUSED PROBLEMS... EVEN FOR YOU, KYOKO-SAN.

Ah ha ha!

NOT REALLY. ALL I DID WAS BEAT OFF SOME KIDS AND RUN AWAY.

That's not cool.



THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO CAME MUCH CLOSER TO DEATH TRYING TO LEAVE THEIR GANGS.

YOU HAD A KIND SENPAI.

BUT... YOU'RE LUCKY.



SENPAI...



THAT'S...

...MY
PHILOSOPHY.

...THAT'S NOT
USELESS.

SO EVEN
IF YOU
STUMBLE
AND MAKE
MISTAKES...

THINK
OF IT LIKE
FERTILIZER.
SURE IT FEELS
LIKE CRAP...

...BUT IT
WILL HELP
YOU GROW!



FOR THERE
TO BE PAIN,
THERE HAS TO
BE KINDNESS.

FOR DARKNESS
TO STAND OUT,
THERE HAS TO
BE THE SUN.

YOU CAN'T
HAVE ONE
WITHOUT
THE OTHER.

AND BOTH
HAVE THEIR
USES.

ALL
THIS TIME
YOU'VE TRIED
TO KEEP
AWAY THE
BEAUTIFUL
THINGS IN
LIFE...

...BUT
SUDDENLY
YOU FEEL
CONFUSED.

YOU BEGIN
TO LOVE THE
BEAUTIFUL
THINGS.

A
MOMENT
OF TRUE
CLARITY.

BUT
THERE'S
ANOTHER
FEELING
YOU GET
ONCE YOU'VE
FALLEN AS
LOW AS
YOU CAN...

WHEN YOU
REACH THAT
POINT, IT
CHANGES
EVERYTHING.

BEING
CARRIED
ON HER
BACK AND
CRYING
LIKE A
BABY...

...I'M A LITTLE
EMBARRASSED.

BUT...

THINKING
BACK ON
IT NOW...

...IT DID
THE JOB.

I...WANT
TO BE...

...TOHRU'S
BEST
FRIEND!

I...

THAT
WAS THE
THOUGHT...

...THAT MADE
ME WANT
TO CHANGE
MYSELF...

...AND MAKES ME
WANT TO KEEP
ON CHANGING,
STILL.

...YEAH.

A
FRIEND
...

...TOHRU
CAN BE
PROUD OF.

THAT'S
THE
KIND OF
FRIEND...

...I WANT
TO BE!



...IS A LIE,
RIGHT?



THAT THE
LIGHT WON'T
GO ON IN THAT
APARTMENT...



I LOVED
HER.

SHE WOULD
GO SAVE A
KID TO WHOM
SHE OWED
NOTHING.

I LOVED
HER.

THAT WARM
KYOKO-SAN...

A GOOD
PERSON,
ALWAYS
DIRECT...

UO-
CHAN...



I HEARD
A RUMOR
THAT SHE
MOVED
FAR AWAY.

I NEVER
SAW
SENPAI
AFTER
THAT.



WE HAD
MORE AND
MORE FUN.

IN OUR
SECOND
YEAR,
WE MET
HANA-
JIMA.



Congratulations on
Entering H SCHOOL

KYOKO-
SAN WOULD
LAUGH
PLEASANTLY,
TOO.

BUT
EVEN
THOUGH
SHE'S
GONE...

...SHE'S NOT
REALLY
GONE, RIGHT?



PEOPLE
STILL PICKED
FIGHTS WITH
ME FOR
A WHILE
AFTER THAT
...

...BUT
SOME-
HOW I
MADE IT
THROUGH.

IT
REALLY IS
AMAZING
TO NOT
BE ALONE.





stop



...BREAK IT OFF.

ALL RIGHT, LITTLE GIRL...

N-N-N...



IF YOU JUST WANT TO SHOW OFF, THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO DO IT, Y'KNOW.

AND YOU SHOULD REALLY DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT ANGER...



IT'S CEASING TO AMUSE ME.



WHY CAN'T I TOUCH YOU?!

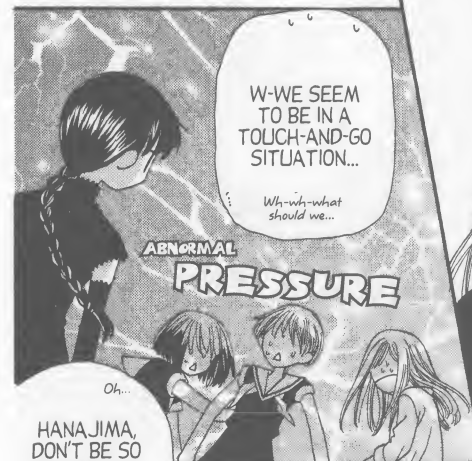
Wh-

THERE'S TOO MUCH DIFFERENCE IN YOUR REACH.

Attack her from below.



WOULD THEY PLEASE JUST GET THIS OVER WITH?



W-WE SEEM TO BE IN A TOUCH-AND-GO SITUATION...

Wh-why-what should we...

ABNORMAL PRESSURE

Oh...

HANAJIMA, DON'T BE SO SERIOUS; THEY'RE JUST KIDS.

Oh my.

I'M ONLY PLAYING WITH THEM...



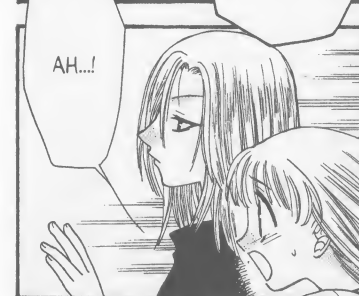
OH. WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?

EH?

LIU-CHAN...



I'LL SEND YOU FLYING!!



AH...!



ERK!

DAMMIT, STOP SCREWING AROUND!

DON'T THINK THAT JUST BECAUSE WE QUIETED DOWN, WE'RE NOT STILL GOING TO KICK YOUR ASS!

YOU'RE NOT QUIET.

Sh-

SHUT UP!

I CAN'T SEE
KYOKO-SAN...

...ANYMORE...

...BUT SHE
LEFT ME
SOMETHING...

HER
ADVICE, HER
FEELINGS
...

...AND
TOHRLI.



THANKS
FOR
TODAY.

SEE YOU
TOMORROW.

YES!



THANK
YOU SO
MUCH...

...LO-CHAN
AND HANA-
CHAN!



ALL
RIGHT.

LET'S
GET OUT
OF HERE.

...

Finally
...

She let's
her go.
Thank
good-
ness...

BUT ANY
TIME YOU
FEEL LIKE
BEING
SCOLDED...

...COME
AND SEE
ME.



ANE-
SAN?!!

ANE-
SAN?!

ANE-
SAN*
...

*Ane-san--
A respectful term
for an older girl.

Chapter 42



THEY ALL...
...ALL BECOME FERTILIZER TO HELP ME GROW.

OLD MAN!





...AND TELL US WHO THE NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE THAT WILL BE LED BY THE NEW PRESIDENT, YUKI!

I LOVE YUKI.

MAKOTO-SAN?

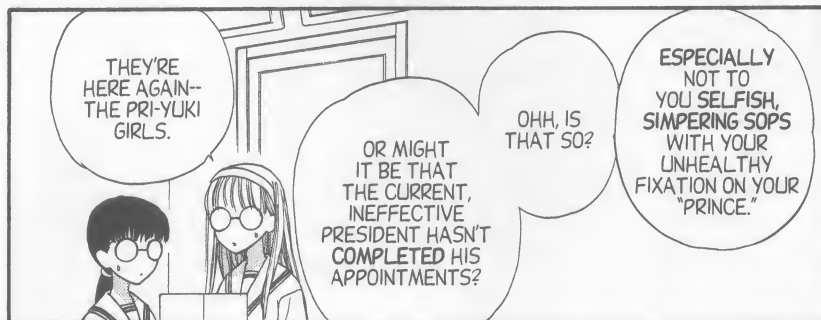
TODAY YOU WILL OPEN THAT STUBBORN MOUTH OF YOURS...



Heh...

I COULD NEVER DIVULGE THAT CLASSIFIED INFORMATION--NOT WHILE I'M STILL A STUDENT BODY REPRESENTATIVE.

WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE PRINCE YUKI CLUB.
OH, MOTOKO-KUN, WILL YOU NEVER LEARN?

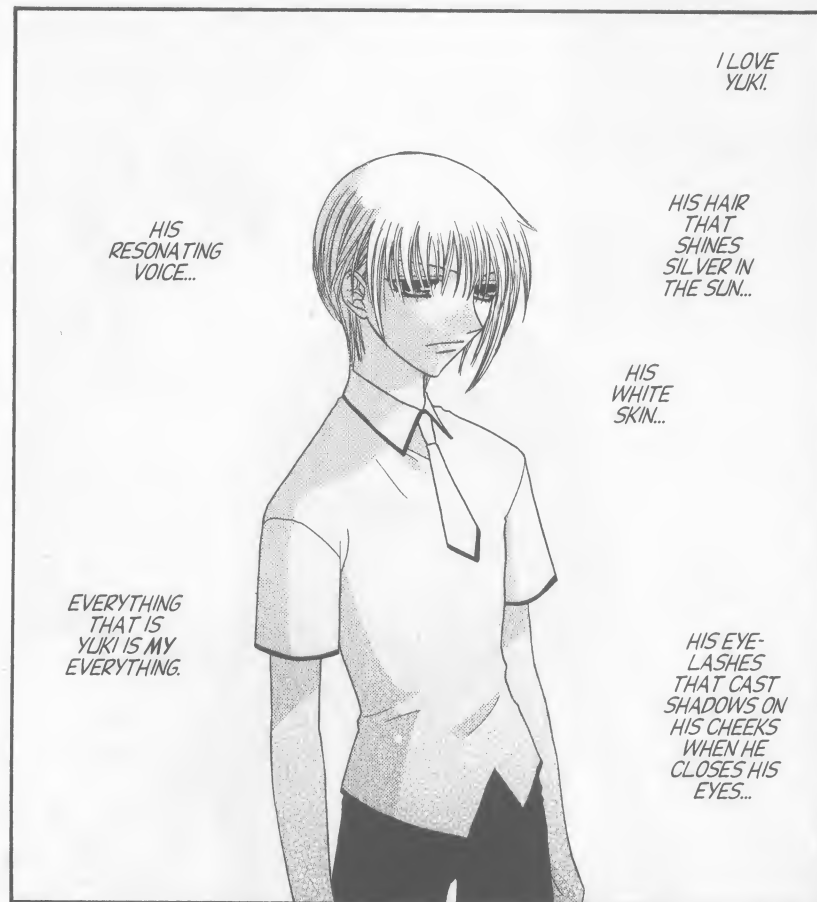


THEY'RE HERE AGAIN--THE PRI-YUKI GIRLS.

OR MIGHT IT BE THAT THE CURRENT, INEFFECTIVE PRESIDENT HASN'T COMPLETED HIS APPOINTMENTS?

OH, IS THAT SO?

ESPECIALLY NOT TO YOU SELFISH, SIMPERING SOPS WITH YOUR UNHEALTHY FIXATION ON YOUR "PRINCE."



I LOVE YUKI.

HIS HAIR THAT SHINES SILVER IN THE SUN...

HIS WHITE SKIN...

EVERYTHING THAT IS YUKI IS MY EVERYTHING.

HIS EYE-LASHES THAT CAST SHADOWS ON HIS CHEEKS WHEN HE CLOSES HIS EYES...

ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 6

Seeing the form of a cheerful girl reminds me the earth is still spinning and all is right in the world...but... When Mio (the Yuki-Club first year rep) becomes president, Yuki will have already graduated... Or so someone reminded me...and they were absolutely correct (laugh). I was wrong. So careless. But that is, it's...okay...or isn't it? (laugh)



IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, I, MAKOTO TAKEI, WOULD DO ANYTHING TO SUPPORT MY LOVELY YUKI-KUN MYSELF, EVEN IF IT MEANS REPEATING SENIOR YEAR!!

AND IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, I WISH YUKI WOULD SKIP A YEAR AND GRADUATE SO WE COULD ENJOY COLLEGE TOGETHER!!

Those two will continue to argue until they graduate.

Yeah, well at least I get to look him in the eye!

AND YOU CALLED US SELFISH AND FIXATED?



LET'S CONSIDER IT.

IN THIS CASE, SHOULD WE SNEAK IN?

To the student council room.

HE PLANS TO KEEP QUIET UNTIL THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

SIGH...

SO PRESIDENT TAKEI DIDN'T CRACK TODAY, EITHER.



THAT'S THE ONLY POINT THAT WE ARE CONCERNED WITH!!

ALL I'M ASKING IS IF THERE ARE WOMEN ON THE NEW COUNCIL.

ARE THE NEW MEMBERS SUCH A SECRET?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS.

IT'S NOT LIKE...

....I'M ASKING YOU TO TELL US ALL OF THEIR NAMES!

I SEE...



IF I MAY SPEAK, IF IT'S A TALENTED PERSON WHO CAN SUPPORT YUKI-KUN, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER THEY ARE MALE OR FEMALE.

OF COURSE--

WHAT IF THIS HYPOTHETICAL WOMAN DOES SOMETHING ATROCIOUS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE INEXPERIENCED YUKI?

DO YOU THINK YUKI IS PREPARED TO DEAL WITH SUCH A SCHEMING WOMAN?

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO APPOINT SUCH A WOMAN, WE ARE DETERMINED TO STOP YOU!!

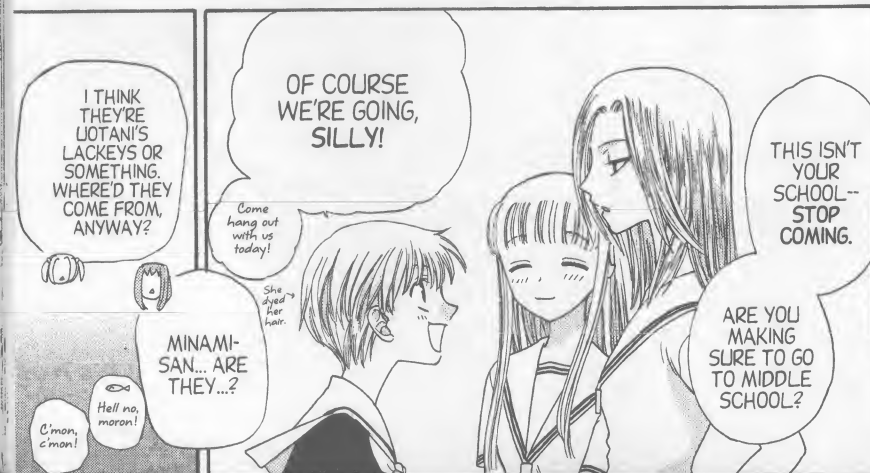
Oh... Er... Yuki-senpai! Do it for me!

Tee hee hee!



HUH?
YOU'RE
BACK?

Ah!
ANE-
SAAAN!



I THINK
THEY'RE
LOTANI'S
LACKEYS OR
SOMETHING.
WHERE'D THEY
COME FROM,
ANYWAY?

OF COURSE
WE'RE GOING,
SILLY!

Come
hang out
with us
today!

She
died her
hair.

MINAMI-
SAN... ARE
THEY...?

C'mon,
c'mon!

Hell no,
moron!

ARE YOU
MAKING
SURE TO GO
TO MIDDLE
SCHOOL?

THIS ISN'T
YOUR
SCHOOL--
STOP
COMING.



SHOULDN'T YOU
BE DECIDING
SOON WHO THE
NEW PRESIDENT
OF THE PRINCE
YUKI CLUB WILL
BE?

YES?!

IT BOTHERS
ME THE
WAY THAT
STUPID
PRESIDENT
REFUSES TO
ANSWER...

COULD THAT
IN ITSELF
PROVE THAT
THERE'S A
WOMAN IN THE
NEW COUNCIL?

AHH...
OBVIOUSLY
IT WOULD BE
A FOOLISH,
SELFISH,
ARROGANT
WOMAN...

THIS IS
A CRISIS
FOR YUKI!!

UM, BY
THE WAY,
MOTOKO-
SENPAI?

And
after you,
Minami-
senpai, the
next president!

...will
surely be
me!

Y-YES,
YOU'RE
RIGHT. VERY
GOOD.

NOW
ABOUT
THAT
REPORT...

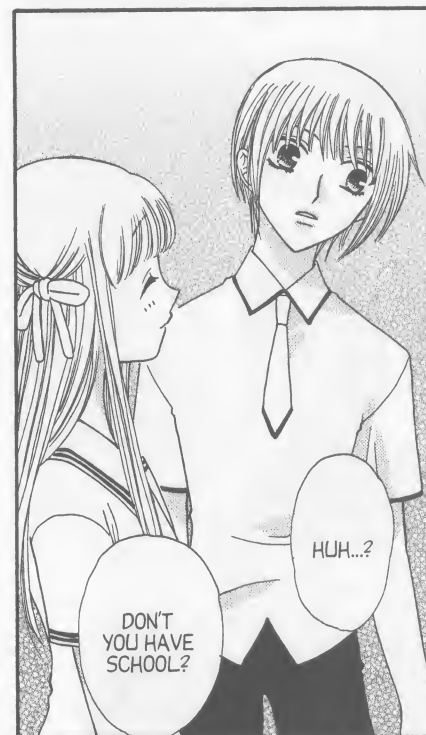
THE PRESIDENT
NEXT SEMESTER
WILL CERTAINLY
BE ME, MINAMI
KINOSHITA! PLEASE
LEAVE IT TO
MINAMI KINOSHITA!

YOU'LL BE
GRADUATING
SOON, MOTOKO-
SENPAI!...

After
all is
said and
done...

Fruits Basket 7:
Part 6

Anyway...
Anyway, I
wanted to draw
again, so I
continued to do
my best. I think
it's good that I
did. The possibil-
ity of it happen-
ing again isn't
zero, so I might
scare myself
and the people
around me, but
I was so happy
that I recovered.
I'm praying
that I can draw
Furuba to the
end, and I will
keep doing my
best. To all you
readers who
encouraged me,
thank you very
much. All I can
ask is that you
to please enjoy
Fruits Basket.
Well then, see
you again soon!





YUKI!!!

...THANK YOU.

SINCE THEN,
I KNEW OUR
DESTINIES
WERE
INTERWINED!

BUT NOW
THE THOUGHT
OF YOU
LEAVING IS
LIKE A SWEET
PAIN IN MY
HEART!

カラッ

KEEP IT DOWN,
MOTOKO!! YOU'RE
BOTHERING THE
NEIGHBORS!!

Stupid
girl!!

WHAT?! I'M
NOT TWELVE
ANYMORE,
MOM! I'LL DO
WHATEVER
I WANT!

The
Minagawas
are at it
again.

woof
arf arf

皆川八百屋

DAMN
HAG.

Sign: Minagawa Produce



I'LL BE
GRADUATING
THIS
SPRING...

YUKI...

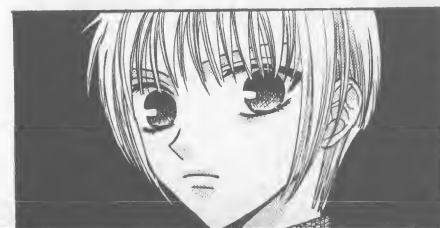
...AND
WHEN THAT
HAPPENS, I
WON'T CATCH
AS MANY
GLIMPSES
OF YOU AT
SCHOOL.

I WON'T
HAVE AS
MANY
CHANCES
TO SPEAK
WITH YOU.

.....



"YOU'RE SO
PRETTY."



EVEN NOW,
I HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN
...

...THE DAY A
YEAR AND A
HALF AGO
WHEN I FIRST
EXCHANGED
WORDS
WITH YOU.

"YUKI...
KLIN?"



MAY I NEVER
BE ON HER
BAD SIDE...

TO THINK
RIKA-SENPAI
HAD SUCH A
SKILL...

THAT'S
JUST WHAT
I WANTED
TO HEAR!

TAKE NOTE,
YOU TWO!



FOR NOW,
WE CAN
AT LEAST
LOOK.

カ
ラ
ツ
slide

BUT THERE
MAY BE
SOMETHING
ELSE OF
VALUE.



IT WOULD HELP
IF YOU COULD
PROVIDE ME WITH
A SKETCH OF THE
COUNCIL ROOM.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
IT'S LIKE ON
THE INSIDE.

SHALL WE
LOOK IT
UP IN THE
REFERENCE
ROOM?



THERE WON'T
BE ANY SUCH
REFERENCE
IN THERE.



NOW YOU
SEE WHY I'VE
REACHED THE
END OF MY
PATIENCE!

HE'S SO
STUBBORN.



IT'S TIME WE
TAKE DRASTIC
MEASURES--WE
INFILTRATE
THE STUDENT
COUNCIL ROOM!

I SEE...
THAT'S
WHY YOU
CALLED
ME?



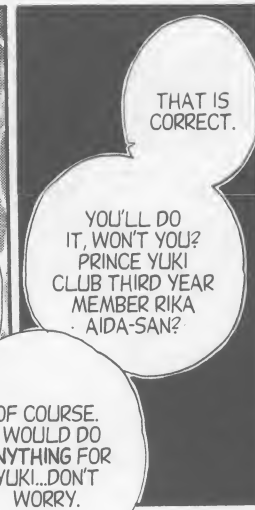
I SAID
I WON'T
TELL
YOU...

...AND I
WON'T.



...THAT
I CAN'T
OPEN!!

THERE'S
NO LOCK
IN THE
SCHOOL...



THAT IS
CORRECT.

YOU'LL DO
IT, WON'T YOU?
PRINCE YUKI
CLUB THIRD YEAR
MEMBER RIKA
AIDA-SAN?

OF COURSE.
I WOULD DO
ANYTHING FOR
YUKI...DON'T
WORRY.



LONG
TIME, NO
SEE, AIDA-
SENPAI.

MINA-
GAWA-
SENPAI.



IT'S YUKI.
YUKI IN THE
FLESH!

NO MATTER
HOW YOU
LOOK AT IT,
IT'S YUKI!!

HERE I CAN
LOOK UP
PAST TRIPS.



Ooh!

THEN
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO
HEAR ABOUT
OUR CLASS
TRIP?

IT REALLY
HAS BEEN A
LONG TIME
SINCE I'VE
EXCHANGED
WORDS WITH
HIM FACE
TO FACE.

IT
MIGHT BE
INFORMATIVE,
RIGHT,
MOTOKO?

Eh?

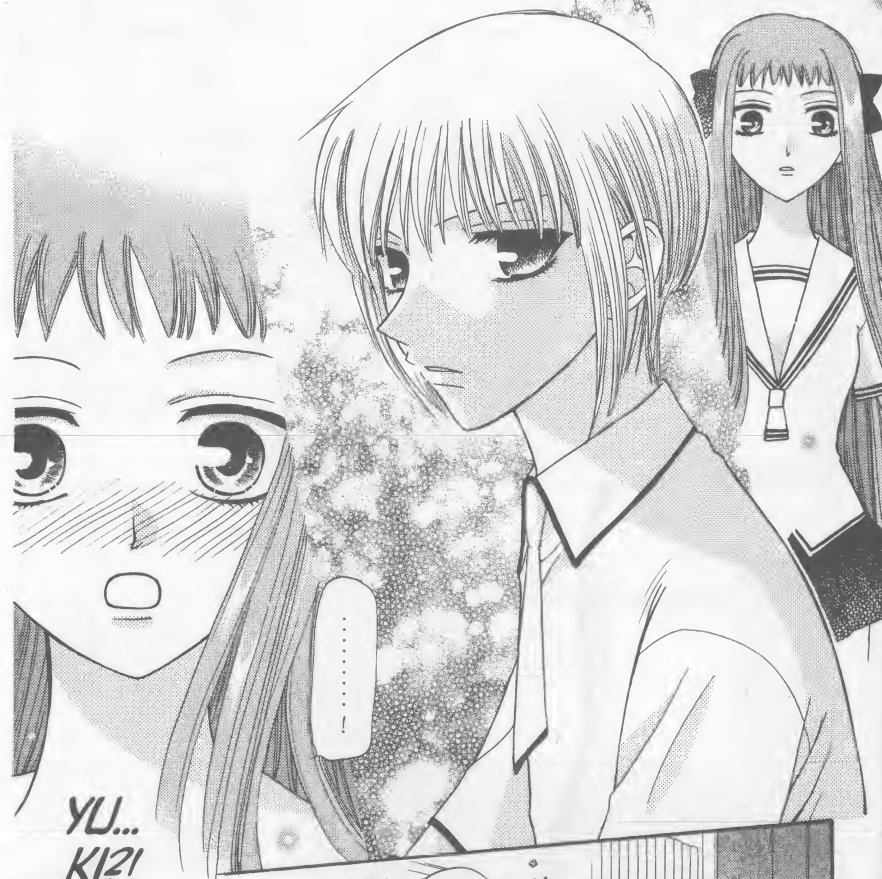
AH,
YES!!



y-

YES...

AHH...



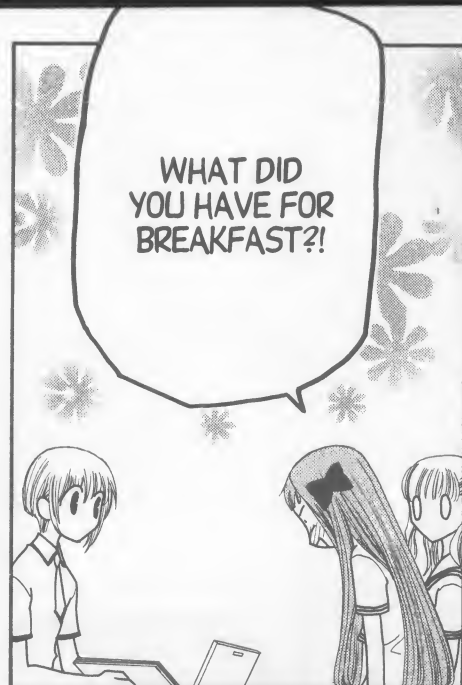
YU...
KI?!



WHAT A
COINCIDENCE!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

OH... I'M
MAKING A
SCHEDULE
FOR THE
CLASS TRIP...

There's not much
time left.



WHAT DID YOU HAVE FOR BREAKFAST?!



I'M ALREADY COMING TO MY COUNTDOWN UNTIL GRADUATION. THIS IS MY CHANCE!

I CAN'T AFFORD TO MESS IT UP!!

YU-



Y-Y-

YUKI!



AH... I MEAN, BREAKFAST IS THE FIRST STEP TO EVERY DAY... IT'S IMPORTANT...

...SO YOU CAN SPEND THE WHOLE DAY FULL OF ENERGY AND VIGOR...

I MESSED UP!!!



...BREAKFAST?

WHY DO YOU ASK?



YES, THIS IS A BLESSING BESTOWED UPON ME BY THE GODDESS OF DESTINY.

I HAVE TO MAKE THE CONVERSATION AS LONG AS I CAN!!

ALL RIGHT.

IF YOU REALLY DON'T MIND.



HERE...

HERE!! I MUST ENCOURAGE CONVERSATION, AND IN SO DOING, GAIN HIS FAVOR.

I MUST SPEAK AND ACT SUCH THAT YUKI WILL HONOR ME WITH EYE CONTACT!!



MINAGAWA-SENPAI?

YUKI
SMILED
AT ME!!



GASP!

DOES IT
BOTHER
YOU? DOES
IT BOTHER
YOU?!

DO YOU
ALWAYS
SPEAK
FORMALLY?

EH? AH...
YES?

YES,
I DO... IS
SOMETHING
WRONG?

AH, NO,
THAT'S
NOT IT.

I MEAN...

...NO.



AHH... YUKI
REALLY DOES
HAVE A
MILLION-
VOLT SMILE.

REALLY?
REALLY?
YUKI LIKES
GROUND
BARLEY?!

WE HAVE
SOMETHING
IN COMMON!!

...MINAGAWA-
SENPAI?



PRINCE
CHARMING...

...EATS
NATTO?

THIS
MORNING
...

...I HAD RICE,
VEGETABLE
MISO SOUP,
FISH, NIMONO*

...AND
NATTO*.



B-B-BUT NATTO
IS VERY GOOD
FOR BEAUTY
AND HEALTH
AND ULCERS,
RIGHT?!

UM...
THAT'S A
LITTLE...

I DON'T CARE
WHAT OTHER
PEOPLE SAY,
SOYBEANS
ARE THE
STEAK OF
THE FIELD!

I LIKE
GROUND
BARLEY,
TOO!

REALLY?

SO DO I.



...BY THE
POWER
OF A
WOMAN...

...SOME-
WHERE
WHERE I
CAN'T SEE
YOU...

WILL YOU
CONTINUE
TO CHANGE...

WHEN
DID YOU
CHANGE
LIKE
THAT?

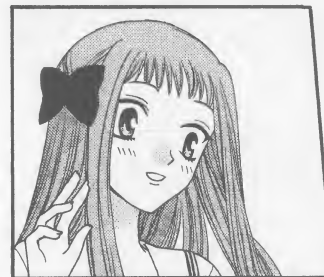
IN THE
YEAR AND A
HALF SINCE
WE FIRST
MET...

I'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN
WATCHING
YOU...

STOP IT...

...BUT I NEVER
SAW YOU
SMILE LIKE
THAT BEFORE
WHEN DID YOU
CHANGE?

STOP IT!
DON'T
TOUCH
HIM!!



EH...?

OH NO,
MOTOKO!
HE JUST...

...SAID
YOU'RE
CUTE!

IT'S
CUTE.



WHEN DID
HE START
SMILING SO
TENDERLY?

IT'S
SOMETHING
ELSE...

HE WASN'T
SMILING AT
ANYTHING I DID.

HE WASN'T
SAYING IT
TO ME.

NO!

I SHOWED
MY UGLY
SELF IN
FRONT OF
YUKI!

I COMPLETELY
LOST CONTROL.

EH?!

ER... I'M
GOING TO GO
WASH MY
FACE.

WAIT A--
MOTOKO?!

THAT WAS THE
STUPIDEST
THING I'VE
EVER DONE!

I HATE
THEM ALL!
THEY'RE
ALL MY
ENEMIES!

BUT...

...THE
ONE I
HATE
MOST...

TOHRU
HONDA, THE
WOMEN WHO
MIGHT BE IN
THE STUDENT
COUNCIL...

...THE NEW
PRESIDENT OF
THE PRINCE
YUKI CLUB...

I DON'T EVEN
WANT TO
CHOOSE ONE.

BUT I
CAN'T
HELP IT.

THAT IS
MY TRUE
SELF.

I HATE
ALL
WOMEN
WHO GET
NEAR YUKI!

STOP
MEDDLING!!

STAY
AWAY
FROM
YUKI!

AH...

UM...

WH-WHAT
CAME
OVER...

...ME?

SO
SUDDEN
...



N-N-NO, THAT'S
NOT IT AT ALL!!
PLEASE DON'T
WORRY ABOUT IT!



YUKI!
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?!



...WITH
NOTHING
TO SPARE.



B-BUT
I'M
HONORED
...

...TO HAVE
THE COOL
YUKI WORRY
ABOUT ME.

I'M...

...NOT
COOL OR
ANYTHING.
I'M JUST
A GUY...



...MY
FOOLISH...

...SELFISH,
ARROGANT
RIVALS.

BUT THE
FLAWS
I SEE IN
OTHERS...

...ARE
REALLY JUST
REFLECTIONS OF
THE FLAWS I SEE
IN MYSELF.



...IS MY
UGLY
SELF.

THE PART
OF ME THAT
CAN THINK
ONLY OF...



...MINAGAWA-
SENPAI?



SO
THAT'S...

...YUKI SOHMA
AND HIS
NUMBER ONE
FAN, HUH?

THE NEW
PRESIDENT IS
BEAUTIFUL..

BUT IT'S AS
PRESIDENT
TAKAI SAYS...

IF SHE KNEW
THAT YOU, A
WOMAN, WILL BE
A NEW MEMBER
OF THE STUDENT
COUNCIL, THAT
GIRL COULD
REALLY STIR UP
TROUBLE.

WHAT WAS
THAT? WHY
DON'T YOU SHOW
SOME INTEREST
IN THE PEOPLE
AROUND YOU?

IT'S
NOTHING.

ME, I'M
INTERESTED
IN YUKI
SOHMA...

BUT...

THAT YUKI
SOHMA...

IT'S TOO
EARLY..

...TO WRITE
OFF OUR
LOVE.

?!

SO--

YUKI SOHMA,
I'M NOT GIVING
UP YET!

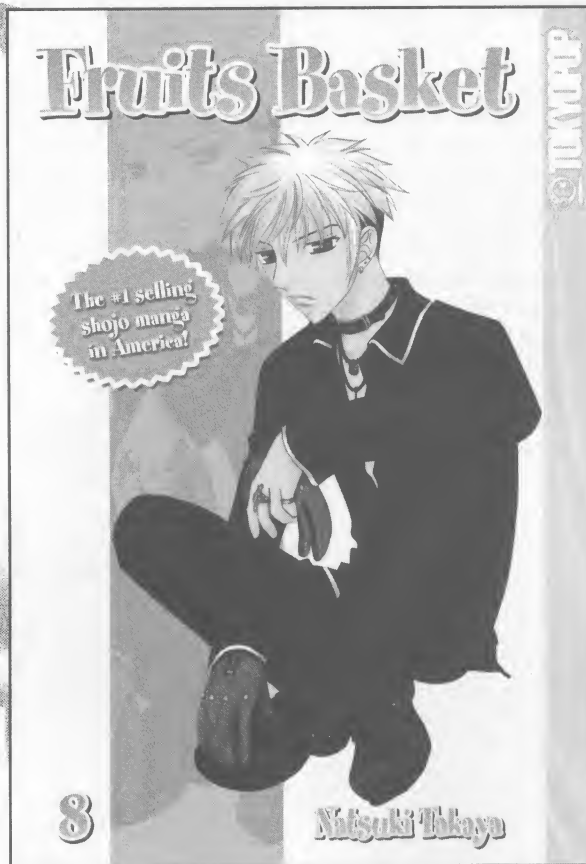
I'll
defeat
the
witch.

YES..

...IN A
BIG WAY.

STARTING
TODAY, I'M
GOING TO
CHANGE.

Next time in...



Yellow Sun, Black Haru...

Summer is on its way, so of course Tohru and friends are excited about the upcoming vacation and field trip. But what's that sound? It's Haru going berserk in the classroom...again! Black Haru is full of more rage than usual, so what will happen when Yuki intervenes? And then there's Ritsu Sohma, whose mom Tohru met at the hot spring; what's wrong with this kimono-wearing beauty?!

Fruits Basket Volume 8
Available April 2005



Melissa C.
Age 13
Olathe, KS



Chelsea M.
Age 13
Milford, CT



Awwww, how adorably sad. Thanks for subtitled the Japanese.

Very nice! Love those thin lines. Makes for an interesting look! The dress looks awesome, too!

Liz W.
Age 13
Wilmington, DE



Hilarious! Thanks for making me laugh, Liz!

Fans Basket

As the new editor of "Fruits Basket," I have been utterly amazed at the amount of fan mail this book receives from its devoted readers. Seriously. You guys are drowning me in an ocean of letters and art. I have a giant sack under my desk that is continually expanding, like a sun about to go super nova. Trust me, you don't want to be around when that baby explodes. My hands are shredded with paper cuts, all from your brightly colored envelopes and spiffy pictures. I'm not even kidding, you guys. Legally, I am sure this is some form of abuse. But I won't press charges. I guess I'm some kind of masochist, because I am still encouraging you to keep flooding me with your touching words and adorable drawings. Despite the pain I've endured (my back is shot from lifting that sack), I take great joy in reading your mail, and I only wish I could publish every piece of art you send.

- Paul Morrissey, Editor

Chii
Age 14
Killeen, TX



I love Tohru's nonexistent skirt-but not as much as the perverted Shigure. I'm pretty sure that's more than just a hug!

Rachel B.
Age 16
Powder Springs, GA



This is simultaneously precious and disturbing. "I am called Momiji," indeed! Even though Momiji's half-German, I'm never quite ready see him in lederhosen!